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LD291334 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Northern Battlefront — Tehran radio announced that Iranian forces and their Iraqi Kurdish allies destroyed the Iraqi garrison at Halabjah during the "Fath-7" offensive, launched during the night of 28-29 June. The radio also claimed that the attackers killed some 400 Iraqi soldiers in an area several miles west of the Iraqi town of Sayyid Sadiq. However, an Iraqi military spokesman described the Iranian claims as "groundless," asserting that the battles announced in Tehran were "fabricated" by the "sick imagination" of the Iranian regime, INA reported.

The announcement of Iran's "Fath-7" offensive followed Iraqi claims of a successful counterattack in the north by its I Army Corps 26-27 June. A communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said the Iraqis launched a "crushing attack," capturing three important border heights, killing "hundreds of enemy scoundrels," and destroying 32 vehicles and 2 tanks. However, an Iranian communique carried by Tehran radio maintained that the Iraqi counteroffensive in the "Nasr-4" sector was repulsed, with the Iraqis sustaining over 5,600 casualties.

As for Iraqi air activity, IRNA reported that the Iraqis used mustard gas in raids on the Iranian border town of Sardasht 28 June. Ten civilians were killed and 650 were injured, a number too large for local hospitals to handle, the agency stated. IRNA said two Iraqi planes were downed in the area, though this was denied by an Iraqi spokesman in a statement to INA. An earlier Iranian claim that six Iraqi planes were downed north of Panjwin 26 June was also denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

Gulf Conflict — Iraqi warplanes attacked a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 29 June, an Iraqi spokesman annouced in a statement to INA. Tehran radio had earlier mentioned the 27 June attacks on a Norwegian and a Liberian tanker off the Saudi coast in a brief report that offered no comment on who was responsible. Regarding Iran's oil exports, the Paris magazine *Petrostrategies* disclosed that Iran is secretly constructing a pipeline to channel oil from western Iran to the Gulf of Oman in order to reduce dependence on Khark Island, AFP reported. Work on the project began last year and should be completed in 1988.

Among further Iranian warnings against U.S. intervention in the Gulf, the Revolution Guards naval commander stressed that Iran's naval capability is "greater than the superpowers think," adding that Iran can teach the United States a "bitter and unforgettable lesson" if it intervenes, Tehran radio reported. The radio also broadcast Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Friday sermon in which he likened President Reagan to a "wounded wolf" who might "resort to anything" because he has been "disgraced." He warned the United States that any conflict with Iran in the Gulf will be protracted. A Tehran radio commentary viewed current Iranian naval exercises in the Gulf as a warning to the United States against any "futile attempt" to destroy the Islamic Revolution. The radio noted that Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi inspected warships involved in the exercises.

Iranian Draft — Monitored Iranian sources have not been observed to confirm a TANJUG report that Iran has extended the period of military service in the regular armed forces by 6 months.

Libya

Warning to U.S. — In the wake of a recent incident in which Libyan jets flew near a U.S. warship in the Mediterranean, JANA's military affairs editor warned that the Libyan Air Force will be "obliged to fight" U.S. vessels that attempt to intercept or interfere with Libyan aircraft carrying out routine reconnaissance flights. Responding to a Pentagon statement on the incident, the editor said a U.S. vessel had begun to interfere with a Libyan reconnaissance plane, causing Libyan planes to approach the source of interference "to learn its identity and to warn it against the folly and consequences of this." The editor stressed that interference with Libyan reconnaissance planes is a "hostile and provocative U.S. act which we do not accept."

Al-Qadhdhafi Algiers Visit — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a "massive" official welcome when he arrived on an official visit to Algeria 28 June, JANA announced. Algiers radio reported that the Libyan leader held political talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who presented him with an order of merit in recognition of Al-Qadhdhafi's active support for Arab unity, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Rome Killing — An anonynous caller told ANSA that a man killed by Libyan gunmen in Rome 26 June was an official of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, an opposition group that operates primarily in Egypt and the UK. The two killers were arrested and admitted to police that they are members of the Libyan "revolutionary committees," AFP reported.

Mauritanian-Iranian Ties

Mauritania's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Iran over Iran's "continuous rejection" of peace negotiations in the Gulf war was announced in a Mauritanian Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Nouakchott radio. The statement also cited the "strategy" drawn up by Iran to obstruct all navigation in the Gulf with the aim of "strangling" the economies of all countries in the region.

OPEC

A statement carried by OPECNA announced the conclusion on 27 June of the OPEC conference in Vienna with agreement on a production level for the rest of 1987 of 16.6 million barrels per day, distributed at the national production levels defined by the December 1986 agreement. The conference established a five-man committee to help secure stable market prices evolving from the OPEC price structure. In case of a significant change in market prices, the committee would call an extraordinary session to revise OPEC production levels. The conference also appointed a committee to undertake visits to member-countries in order to "motivate" them to comply with the terms of the agreement.

The agreement is viewed as a "great and historic victory" for Iran and for OPEC in general, Tehran radio reported. In addition to the lower production ceiling, the Iranian petroleum minister counted as an Iranian success the OPEC decision to send a group of ministers to persuade "countries like Iraq" that have not accepted the agreement to abide by it. The minister predicted the agreement would result in "a great degree of stability" in oil prices.

In remarks cited by Voice of the Masses radio, the Iraqi oil minister described the conference as "successful." He said the conference's resolutions will help achieve stability in the market but added that Iraq is not a party to the agreement and will therefore continue to produce the quantities it deems "appropriate." The minister added that Iraq is committed to the pricing structure but not to "specific quantities" of production.

Kuwait

Security Trials — The state security court opened hearings in two cases in which a total of 15 Kuwaitis face charges of plotting against the government, inciting disorder, obstructing justice, and attacking security men, KUNA reported. In the first case seven are accused of circulating leaflets in April and May. Charges against the eight defendants of the other case stem from rioting that took place in January.

Soviet Tanker Agreement — The USSR decision to lease three Soviet oil tankers to Kuwait was a "purely mercantile agreement," the Soviet ambassador said in an interview with *Al-Watan* cited by KUNA. The ambassador said his country, if approached, would consider any Kuwaiti request for assistance in sweeping mines from the Gulf.

Lebanon

The recent kidnapping of U.S. journalist Charles Glass is connected with information that Glass possesses about the hijackers of the TWA plane in 1985, *Al-Shira'* maintained in a report cited by Radio Monte Carlo. *Al-Shira'* also stated that two Lebanese Hizballah officials are currently in Tehran to discuss the fate of U.S. hostages in Lebanon. A Voice of Lebanon radio report on the abduction of Glass cited information that his kidnappers are Lebanese members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, under the direct command of Shaykh Muhammad al-Miqdad. In another development, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah told *Der Spiegel* that the two FRG hostages could be released more quickly than other Western hostages because the FRG's decision not to deport Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah to the United States "makes things easier," DPA noted.

Syria

Yarmuk Waters Project — Syria is constructing dams and artificial lakes to divert water from tributaries of the Yarmuk River and develop agriculture along its southern borders with Jordan and Israel, Jerusalem television disclosed in a 26 June report. The Syrian project will reduce water available for Israel and Jordan, the television said, and Jordan is especially concerned because of its exclusive dependence on the Yarmuk waters for irrigation purposes. The Jordanians made lengthy representations on the issue during the Syrian prime minister's recent visit to Amman, the television added.

According to the Israeli report, the Syrian project will be much larger than King Husayn's Jordan Rift Valley irrigation system and will involve the construction of 20 dams as well as new villages to absorb large numbers of people. Noting that Syria currently uses less of the Yarmuk waters than Jordan, the television indicated that Syria is seeking to reduce dependence on imported Jordanian agricultural products by using the same water to grow such products itself.

Resignations — President Hafiz al-Asad issued decrees accepting the resignations of the construction minister and the agriculture and agrarian reform minister, Damascus radio reported 26 June.

Israel

PRC Relations — The Israeli ambassador to Paris recently conferred with his PRC counterpart on "the Chinese declaration about establishing relations with Israel as part of the preparations for an international conference," Jerusalem radio reported. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the radio that Israel is facing "extraordinary opportunities" as a result of China's "interesting proposal," which was made in an oral statement by a PRC diplomat in Paris. Monitored PRC media have not been observed to mention any declaration on establishing relations with Israel.

West Bank Water — Arab mayors in the Bethlehem area pledged to resist a new Israeli water-drilling scheme that would lead to the pumping of 18 million cubic meters of water per annum from a site near Herodion for use mostly in Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. *The Post* noted that the deep-drilling project is controversial because it could deplete wells serving local Arab communities, which would only receive up to one third of the pumped water. The civil administration in Judaea and Samaria is seeking guarantees that the scheme will not harm Arab interests, the paper noted. The agriculture minister said the the plan will not deplete water available to Arab communities but will help ease the water shortage in the Bethlehem area, Jerusalem radio reported.

Security — A woman and child were injured by a bomb explosion on a beach in Haifa 27 June, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that thousands of people were rapidly evacuated from the area. Palestinian groups claimed responsibility for the bombing, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. An Arab villager was killed and six others were injured the following day during a land dispute with Israeli officials in the Bethlehem district, IDF radio reported. The Israeli civilian administration employees reportedly opened fire in self-defense.

PLO

Criticism of UK Stand — A PLO spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio took an "extremely serious" view of Britain's view of the role an international conference should play, asserting that the British position is "hostile" to Palestinian rights and is "biased" toward Israel.

Internal Differences — The UAE's *Al-Ittihad* stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is currently at loggerheads with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf over policy toward Egypt. 'Arafat reportedly sacked the WAFA director for failing to publish a statement disowning Khalaf's statements criticizing the Egyptian leadership.

King Husayn's Visit to Turkey

Jordanian King Husayn's talks with Turkish leaders over the weekend focused on bilateral economic and political issues and on possible ways to further develop cooperation in the defense field, Ankara radio disclosed. The radio cited a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement which noted that the talks between Jordanian and Turkish officials included a discussion on the possibility of a defense industry cooperation agreement. The king toured Turkey's F-16 factory near Ankara during his visit, the radio noted.

Al-Asad-Saddam Meeting Has 'Positive Results'
NC251559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Text] Paris, 25 Jun (MENA) — The Paris-based Arabic language weekly *Al-Watan al-'Arabi* states that the meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Jordan's King Husayn, reportedly held recently at the Jordanian Al-Jafr Air Base, has had positive results, contrary to analyses that have alleged otherwise.

In its edition to be published tomorrow, Friday, the magazine adds that an agreement was reached during this meeting to postpone the public conciliation between Syria and Iraq and to give the Soviet Union the opportunity to mediate between Baghdad and Tehran on a basis for negotiations. The magazine notes that Iraq agreed to keep the agreement secret after Syria insisted that the conciliation be declared in a manner that would not rouse Iranain hostility.

Syria, UAE To Resume Mediation on Gulf War
JN281544 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] Amman — *Al-Bayan* learned from reliable sources in Amman yesterday that the UAE and Syria will soon resume their initiative to end the Iraq-Iran war by mediating between Baghdad and Tehran. The sources said that His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan will visit Damascus soon to hold important talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi is also expected to arrive in Damascus for the same reason.

Al-Ittihad on 'Crisis' Between 'Arafat, Khalaf

JN281729 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 Jun 87 pp 1, 9

['Abd al-Majid Bijar dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] A severe crisis has recently occurred within the Fatah Movement between its leader Yasir 'Arafat, alias Abu 'Ammar, and Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, as a result of Abu Iyad's recent statements on relations between Egypt and the PLO. In his remarks, Abu Iyad attacked the Egyptian president's statements and called Egypt's decision to close down PLO offices irresponsible. He also expressed regret over closing down the PLO offices in Egypt while the Israeli flag remains fluttering over it.

In a statement published by *Al-Musawwar* the day before yesterday, the Egyptian president said: I do not think that anything new has developed which warrants reconsidering our decision to close down the PLO offices. The new development which seems to have occurred prompts us to say that it appears that some Palestinian leaders still do not know how to shoulder their responsibility. A few days ago, Abu Iyad said that the Egyptian decision to close down the PLO offices was irresponsible. I do not think that I will respond to his words.

Al-Ittihad has learned that Abu 'Ammar was dissatisfied with Abu Iyad's remarks and gave orders to the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, to publish a statement by the PLO Executive Committee spokesman stressing that Abu Iyad was not authorized to make such comments for the PLO. However, WAFA Director Sulayman Ibrahim did not publish the statement following contacts undertaken with some sides, including Abu Iyad, to avoid a crisis within Fatah and consequently between Abu Iyad and Abu 'Ammar, considering 'Arafat's reaction to be the result of a brief angry moment. Sulayman Ibrahim believed that the incident would be forgotten amid the accumulated Palestinian events while Abu 'Ammar was attending the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Baghdad. However, 'Arafat did not forget the issue and made a decision before returning to Tunis from Baghdad and Sanaa to dismiss Sulayman Ibrahim and ordered the publication of the statement.

The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, has actually published the statement in its 19 June issue, attributing it to an official spokesman. The statement reads: We were surprised by the statements attributed to Brother Abu Iyad regarding relations with Egypt. The PLO Executive Committee would like to stress that Brother Abu Iyad is not authorized to make such statements in the name of the PLO.

Al-Ittihad has also learned that Abu Iyad was extremely dissatisfied with the publication of this statement while he was outside Tunis in one of the East European states. Abu Iyad's first reaction was to hold a press conference. However, some Fatah Central Committee members and PLO Executive Committee members mediated to convince Abu Iyad not to hold a press conference either inside or outside Tunis in order to avoid any consequences harming the Palestinian question or creating an estrangement between two prominent Fatah leaders, Abu Iyad and Abu 'Ammar.

Al-Ittihad has learned that some Palestinian leaders are still trying to contain the differences between the two men and that Abu Iyad is expected to return to Tunis from the capital of an East European state within the next few days. Certain informed Palestinian sources told *Al-Ittihad* that Abu Iyad plans to ask for a Fatah Central Committee meeting to discuss the issue. A Palestinian source informed *Al-Ittihad* that the objective of publishing the PLO Executive Committee spokesman's 19 June statement was to stress that any such statement made by any Palestinian leader does not necessarily express the PLO Executive Committee's stand.

Although the Palestinian leaders in Tunis try to belittle the importance of this minor issue, the dismissal of the WAFA director on 'Arafat's order proves the contrary. This minor issue also reveals the differences among various Palestinian leaders, whether on factional or PLO Executive Committee levels, with regard to several issues. The most important of these are relations with Egypt, relations with Syria, and the international conference.

According to some informed Palestinian sources, the PLO Executive Committee meetings and the Fatah Central Committee meetings will be an opportunity to settle the differences between Abu 'Ammar and Abu Iyad and to further discuss the issue.

'Arafat on International Conference, Arab Unity

JN271955 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1818 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has affirmed that settling the Palestinian question is the basis for any solution to the Middle East crisis and that there will not be an international conference without the PLO. Brother Abu 'Ammar hailed active international efforts by the Security Council, General Assembly, and the USSR to convene this conference. He said that he was optimistic about the convocation of an international conference on the basis of all UN resolutions and the UN charter. In a statement to AFP, Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed the need for the restoration of Arab unity before the convocation of such a conference. He indicated that the PLO is doing its utmost to this end.

PLO Spokesman on UK International Conference Stand

JN272003 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1818 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Statement by an "official" PLO spokesman; date and place not given]

[Text] Commenting on the 24 June statement made by an official spokesman for the British Foreign Office, which included the UK's concept of an international conference as expressed by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the Israeli foreign minister to the effect that the international conference is a framework within which direct negotiations would take place and that the conference will not have the power to impose solutions, as well as Thatcher's concentration on Israel's security without referring to the Palestinian people's rights and existence, the PLO would like to explain the following:

1. This British stand declared by Prime Minister Thatcher, which is her first action during her third term, is an extremely serious stand and hostile to our people's hopes, aspirations, and rights recognized by UN laws, charter, and resolutions. This stand is biased toward the Zionist aggression against and usurpation of Palestinian and Arab territories. This hostile stand by the British Government makes us recall the serious role Britain has been playing since the ill-omened Balfour Declaration in 1917 — a declaration through which Britain betrayed the mandated responsibilities with which it was entrusted by the League of Nations, created the Zionist entity, and supported it by all means, including military, to expel millions of our Palestinian people.

2. It is strange that this abnormal British stand should comein violation of EEC statements and resolutions, including the recent Brussels statement, which stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination as a basis for the international conference and the PLO's participation in it. This British stand contradicts the will of the majority of UN member states. It is also a challenge to the resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic, African, and Arab states.

3. Britain is a permanent member state of the UN Security Council. Therefore, its participation as a supervisor at the international conference along with the other UN Security Council member states necessitates that it should adopt the stand of mediator and not adopt a biased position toward the aggressor Israeli party which occupies Palestinian land and expels its citizens.

Finally, in our view the international conference is a framework for working along with all other parties to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian question and the Middle East crisis. It is not a framework for reaching bilateral settlements that would continue the conflict and waste the opportunity to achieve peace.

PLO's Al-Wazir Discusses Palestinian Issues

JN261032 Kuwaiti AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Jun 87 p 15

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, by 'Amid al-Shanti; date and place given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Shanti] The Palestinian revolution is at a crossroads. Neither a political solution nor a military one prevails. In your opinion, what is the sound course to follow and where are the real military operations against Israel?

[Al-Wazir] Let us begin this dialogue with you in complete frankness. The Palestinian revolution has never placed before itself this type of erroneous option; namely, that of a political or a militery solution. We believe that such an approach is faulty and harmful.

We were the first to set the struggle for the liberation of Palestine on a sound course. While others shirked their responsibilities, had others assume them, or expected a solution to be reached through one military strike, we were the first to pull the trigger in the right direction to launch the Palestinian armed struggle and to set a sound course leading to the liberation of Palestine.

At the time, we announced that the road to Palestine would be a long, bitter, and arduous one and that it faced more than one obstacle, turning point, and barrier. We have stated and continue to reaffirm that the strategy for the liberation of Palestine consists of political action, as well as armed struggle. We were also the first to resort to the gun as the means for the liberation of Palestine. It is this gun that has made our cause a cause of existence instead of an issue of borders and has forced others to deal with Palestine as a national political cause and not merely a humanitarian issue of refugees.

Ariel Sharon himself has admitted that the Palestinians succeeded in portraying the basic problem to world public opinion as a Palestinian and not a Jewish problem.

Our strategy, which has kept the Palestinian gun aimed at the enemy, is the one that has enabled our Palestinian people to make all their political achievements. Those who at first said that we were a group of adventurers were later forced to follow in our footsteps and to proceed on the sound course.

This is the strategy by which we have abided since the beginning and by which we will continue to abide. It basically consists of a protracted and comprehensive confrontation of the enemy in all fields and on all levels.

We not only open fire and plant bombs but also assist our people in clinging to their national soil, protecting their heritage, and enhancing their political, cultural, and educational awareness and maturity. Our revolution takes care of schools, universities, mosques, fields, hospitals, and daily newspapers. We have been fighting on all these fronts for the last 20 years. Despite the ferocious wars our enemies and brothers have waged against us, we still remain committed to our militant Palestinian gun and to our independent national decisionmaking.

We like to explicitly state that we will force our way into every international arena, media forum, or diplomatic and political field to impose our cause. Such is our confidence in ourselves, our people, and our revolution. We have repeatedly stated that political action is one thing and political solution and settlements are another. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shanti] The PNC has achieved a lot, but how far have efforts to pursue total unity gotten?

[Al-Wazir] What the 18th PNC session achieved has left no room for grandstanders. If opponents and enemies were annoyed by the results of this session, friendly parties were correspondingly satisfied and appreciative. It was no coincidence that Comrade Gorbachev praised the outcome of the 18th session when he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during his recent visit to Moscow. The achievements of the 18th PNC session dismantled whatever plans there may have been to create an alternative or parallel organization to the PLO. No one gives the slightest attention anymore to what is happening outside the circle of Palestinian national consensus that manifested itself in the session of national unity and the steadfastness of the camps.

It is common knowledge that we did our utmost and offered every possible assistance to all the factions, including those that did not make an appearance at the PNC, in the interest of maximum national consensus on a national unity program under the PLO banner. We did effect a good measure of coordination with some of the factions that had stayed away from the 18th session, paving the way for their involvement in aspects of national action by the PLO and its institutions. Each region has its military council comprising members of the major factions that attended the 18th PNC session and those that did not attend, not to mention coordinated national action inside the occupied land on the military, trade union, and political fronts. It is possible to say that major factions with any national weight in the Palestinian arena are working in unison within the framework of the PLO. As for those who chose to remain outside the national consensus, they have condemned themselves to isolation. Their fate will not be any better than that of any breakaway or separatist movement. Accordingly, as far as we are concerned, a so-called emergency PNC session is not called for. In the meantime, the doors of the PLO will always remain open to any faction willing to return to march under its legitimate leadership,which has been consecrated by our people's support following the unanimous endorsement of the Palestinian resistance factions.

[Al-Shanti] Egyptian policies have not changed since Al-Sadat. Nevertheless, the Fatah leadership insists on holding contacts with Egyptian leaders and courting them.

[Al-Wazir] We do not want to enter a contest of declarations with anyone. None of us is interested in this kind of sensationalism on a matter so important to all, a matter which we feel must be addressed equally seriously. Palestinian-Egyptian relations are governed by a number of important considerations, foremost among which is the fact that not one Palestinian fails to recognize Egypt's historical role and leadership status, as well as the sacrifices of its people and Army. The 18th PNC session highlighted and reiterated these facts. It is indeed painful that some are seeking to come between us and the Egyptian people. Not one Palestinian fails to emphasize his love and appreciation of the Egyptian people. We are confident that the political maturity of the Egyptian people will abort any attempt to play us off against one another. Furthermore, I must say that Egypt does not expect gratitude in return for its stand on Palestine; just as Egypt is our strategic asset, Palestine is Egypt's *first line of defense*. Egypt fought for and sacrificed on behalf of pan-Arab causes and national security.

Despite what is being said in Egypt about peace, the real danger to Egypt is still posed by the Zionist entity from which this danger infiltrates to undermine Egypt's internal security and, consequently, all pan-Arab security. These established facts need no new proof. We explained to everyone our stand on Palestinian-Egyptian relations based on consistent rejection of the Camp David accords and persistent work to foil the policy of isolating Egypt from our nation's pan-Arab causes. We also explained the link between these two issues.

It is no secret that the Israeli enemy and the United States have more than once in official memorandums frankly protested the Palestinian political presence in Egypt. Then the crisis came. Suffice it to say that the information given to the Egyptian leadership in the recent statements and remarks about the PNC session and its aftermath is inaccurate and does an injustice to our people, to the PLO, and to reality itself. It is absolutely incorrect that someone in the PNC offended the Egyptian people through a single word. All PNC meetings were public and even the secret meetings almost turned into public ones. Likewise, it is untrue that the decision on the relationship with Syria came at the expense of the relationship with Egypt. Our mission in Algiers was not to flirt with Syria or to abuse others, because the interest of both our cause and people lies in not joining axes with anyone against anyone. On the contrary, we consider ourselves a bridge that will restore the lost Arab solidarity in order to restore the credibility of Arab words and deeds.

On the other hand, we do not see any justification for the Egyptian leadership's placing before us a single option; namely, that we attend an international conference as part of a joint delegation with Jordan on the basis of consenting to Security Council Resolution 242. Does that square with what Egypt officially said; that is, that the resolution is not adequate to solve the Palestinian problem? Why does Egypt not resume its efforts to influence the hostile American stand on our people? Why doesn't Egypt put its political weight in the international arena alongside those urging an international conference with full powers to be attended by all the interested parties, including the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? Certainly, we do not seek to exacerbate the crisis with Egypt but to contain it. We have shown political maturity by acting rationally rather than nervously. It was in this spirit that the PLO Executive Committee issued its statement on Palestinian-Egyptian relations, which we believe left no room for grandstanders. Perhaps our brothers in Egypt agree with us that the media campaign went beyond acceptable moral and political limits and spared none of the sanctities of our people. Eventually the hostile campaign will rebound on those who have unleashed it. Perhaps our brothers in Egypt also agree with us that warnings and ultimatums are not the proper language of political dialogue, even given differences of opinion and approaches.

[Al-Shanti] What about Lebanon and the protection of the Palestinian people there, particularly following the abrogation of the Cairo Agreement?

[Al-Wazir] First of all, we must explain that the 1969 Cairo Agreement was a translation of the pan-Arab state of resurgence which refused to politically give in to the 1967 military setback and during which the Arabs tried to overcome the reality of defeat. From this perspective, the Cairo Agreement was a victory for the Lebanese people before acting as a political framework for military and political relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese state.

No one can forget the state of affairs experienced by most of the Lebanese nationalist forces before the Palestinian revolution distributed weapons to its natural allies, the sons of the Lebanese people.

The 1969 Cairo Agreement was reached after the many battles we fought alongside the Lebanese brothers in confrontation of the Zionist enemy and the isolationist adversary. We will never forget 'Izz al-Din al-Jamal, the first Lebanese martyr who crossed the border in 1968 to fight the Israeli enemy. We will also never forget our Lebanese and Palestinian martyrs in the Kafr Shuba, Al-'Arqub, Al-Khiyam, and Al-Habbariyah battles, as well as those who fell in other battles.

Therefore, the Cairo Agreement was born out of the legitimacy of the nationalist Lebanese-Palestinian gun. No two people disagree that the actual rebirth of the Lebanese nationalist resurgence was linked to the 1969 Cairo Agreement. We are reemphasizing these facts to show that the measures abrogating the Cairo Agreement are not legal. Also, no one can settle his debts at the expense of a national agreement such as the Cairo Agreement, which perhaps needed to be amended but not abrogated. No one can accept that the decision abrogating this agreement restores the pre-1969 state of affairs or renews the attempt to impose this state of affairs once again on our Lebanese people.

Nor will anyone accept that this decision harms the nationalist Lebanese-Palestinian gun in Lebanon, particularly now that the entire world realizes that this gun is being used only in self-defense and to confront other massacres that would have taken place, God forbid, had there not been a nationalist Lebanese-Palestinian gun.

In the final analysis, the decision abrogating this agreement was apparently not strictly a Palestinian affair. The issue is one of attempting to deprive the national gun in Lebanon, whether it is raised by the Palestinians or the Lebanese, of its legitimate cover.

We believe that this measure is linked to Murphy's scheme to partition Lebanon into zones of influence following the liquidation or the containment of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon.

Therefore, the target is the national gun and the new popular state of resurgence which has been linked to this gun. Those who will start by liqudating the Palestinian gun will not later spare the Lebanese nationalist forces. This is the unwritten agreement in Lebanon, the existence of mutual protection and our common fate.

We would like to tell those who say that there will be no return to the pre-1982 state of affairs that it would be better to say that there will be no return to the pre-1969 state of affairs.

PLO's 'Abbas Telephones Jordan's Al-Qasim

JN282004 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Jun 87 p 21

[Text] Amman — *Al-Bayan* has learned that an important telephone conversation was held the day before yesterday, Tuesday, between Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, and Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court. Informed Palestinian sources here reported that the telephone conversation, which lasted over 1 hour and was initiated by Abu Mazin, dealt with ways to reactivate PLO-Jordanian relations and define a new framework for political cooperation between the two sides in the wake of the abrogation of the "Amman agreement."

'Responsible Source' on Increased Israeli Attacks

JN272031 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1818 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Statement by a PLO "responsible source;" date and place not given]

[Text] The terrorist Zionist gangs escalated their hysterical criminal attacks against our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland this week. Groups of these terrorist gangs attacked several Palestinian students in the city of Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv on Tuesday, 23 June. These gangs threw one of the students from his second floor apartment to the ground. Other groups burned the house using gas-filled balloons with the objective of destroying it. This is the third time this week that these fascist gangs have attacked Palestinian students and workers in the Tel Aviv area.

This fascist campaign being launched by the Kahane-Levinger gangs coincides with the official terrorism carried out by the border guard forces and police against our people who are being exposed to attacks, search campaigns, provocations, and humiliation at checkpoints throughout the country. This fascist campaign also coincides with the escalation of campaigns of solidarity with and support for the heroic struggle of the Arab municipal councils against the aggressive, racist Zionist policy.

While following the fierce, fascist Zionist gangs' onslaught against the masses of our people in occupied Palestine with extreme concern, the PLO calls on the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and all international and humanitarian organizations to assume their responsibilities to stop this criminal campaign which seeks to expel the sons of our Palestinian people under threats of terrorism and murder.

Palestinian Forces Report Anti-Israeli Operations

JN272014 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1818 GMT 27 Jun 87

["Text" of statements by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] In implementation of instructions, the martyr Salamah al-Asmar group managed to plant an explosive device at the entry of the central bus station in occupied Al-Khudayrah on 25 June. The group then successfully withdrew from the area. At 1900, while the Zionist occupation forces were combing the bus station, the explosive was discovered. However, it exploded as the Zionist bomb disposal expert was attempting to defuse it. The Zionist was seriously wounded and several buses and the station sustained severedamages.

Revolution Until victory!

The second statement stipulates the following:

Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied land launched an incendiary bomb attack against an enemy military vehicle as it passed near the Nur Shams refugee camp east of occupied Tulkarm at 2015 on 25 June. The vehicle was burned and two enemy soldiers were wounded. Immediately afterwards, the Zionist security forces cordoned off the area and arrested 20 citizens from the Nur Shams refugee camp. The Zionist forces besieged the area until the following morning. Our heroes returned safely to base.

Revolution Until Victory!

Further Anti-Israeli Operations

JN281907 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 28 Jun 87

["Text" of two military communiques by military spokesman of the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] First: The blows of our revolutionaries against enemy military targets have continued despite the extreme state of alertness by the Zionist security organs to confront our revolutionaries' heroic operations. At 1030 yesterday, 27 June 1987, a time bomb planted by our revolutionaries from the martyr Zafir al-Masri group operating in the occupied homeland went off near one of the enemy's roadblocks at Al-Karmil Square in occupied Haifa. Several enemy personnel were wounded in the explosion. The Zionist spokesman admitted that two personnel were wounded. Zionist security forces sealed off the scene of the operation, conducted a large-scale search operation in fear that there might be other bombs, and arrested a number of Palestinian citizens. Our heroes returned safely to base.

Second: In implementation of the plan drawn up for the Sabra and Shatila martyrs group, members of this group kidnapped one of the enemy's intelligence personnel while he was in the Bayt Lid region at 1850 on Friday, 26 June 1987, after conducting close observation of his movements. The group tried to cross enemy roadblocks and reach the liberated area, but they ran into a mobile roadblock. This obliged them to repeatedly stab and wound the hostage before they managed to move out of that area peacefully.

In the wake of this successful heroic operation, the enemy undertook several security measures and arrested dozens of Palestinian citizens, particularly in the Qalqilyah region, on the pretext of involvement in the operation.

Libya Resumes Financial Aid to Palestinians

JN281806 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] A Palestinian source in Damascus has stated that Libya has resumed its financial aid to some Palestinian organizations after having suspended it in September last year. The Palestinian source, who is close to Fatah dissidents, added that leader Al-Qadhdhafi has decided to resume financial aid to the PFLP, the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group, the PFLP-GC, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

Biannual OPEC Conference Opens in Vienna

Representatives Preview Meeting

LD251002 Kuwait KUNA in English 0853 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Text] Vienna, June 25 (KUNA) — OPEC conference president Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, minister of petroleum resources of Nigeria, warned that OPEC's bi-annual meeting scheduled to start here today "must not take any decision which could upset market stability". He added in a statement to OPEC News Agency, OPECNA, today "we must not overreach ourselves. The market is currently in balance. We need to maintain internal strength to sustain the gains already made."

President Lukman said the conference, which met in Geneva in December, would review developments over the past six months and it would also consider the oil market outlook for the rest of 1987.

He and other oil ministers were said to have devoted Wednesday to exchange of views and 'try to guage feelings' just before the conference.

Ecuadorian minister of energy and mines Javier Espinosa Teran told OPECNA that "it should be good to have an OPEC agreement on production and prices, reached in Geneva in December, extended for another six months".

He added "I think that this is what we are aiming at."

He described the December agreement as a "workable accord", noting that following its implementation, oil prices were firming up and a level of market stability had been achieved.

Meanwhile Iranian Minister of Petroleum Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, told IRNA news agency in Tehran upon departure, that Iran will support a higher oil price and market stability at today's meeting of the OPEC conference.

The Iranian petroleum minister announced Iran would ask the conference to consider the effect of the depreciation of the dollar on OPEC revenues.

On the other hand, Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Dr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti expressed himself in favour of extending the OPEC agreement onproduction and prices reached in Geneva last year, till the end of 1987.

The agreement has worked well for the first six months of the year, he said, adding "we have reached the 18 dollar per barrel (reference) price...including relative stability of the international market".

Minister Grisanti's view is that a thorough assessment of the supply and demand balance of the world oil market be made. The result of the assessment should show whether it was possible to decide on production levels for the third and fourth quarter of 1987 as stated in the Geneva accord of December 1986.

'Closed' Session Postponed

AU261050 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Jan Kristiansen report]

[Text] Vienna, June 26 (AFP) — OPEC oil ministers on Friday morning here postponed for several hours a scheduled "closed" session amid continuing differences over year-end crude oil production levels, which OPEC officials fear could upset market confidence.

OPEC secretariat sources said the scheduled session, initially set for 11 a.m. (0900 GMT), was now due to start at OPEC's Vienna headquarters at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT).

They said the ministers, attending the regular semi-annual conference of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which opened here on Thursday, wanted more time for informal consultations.

The ministers are searching for a basis for compromise between OPEC's "price hawks" — Algeria, Iran and Libya — and "moderates" led by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conference sources said.

They suggested that the sharpest differences were between Iran and the Arab producers of the Gulf region.

Independent Arab oil industry experts said the postponement might indicate that it would be harder than initially anticipated to strike a "credible" deal in order to maintain market stability and "defend" OPEC's six-month-old reference price of 18 dollars a barrel.

News of the postponement came a few hours after a report that Iraq said its Navy had sunk a tanker about to enter the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeyni.

Conference sources said during the night here that Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh was pressing for an increase in the reference price from 18 to 19.25 dollars a barrel, to offset the dollar's fall against other key currencies since the end of last year.

His request was put on record in a report presented to the ministers' first working session on Thursday afternoon.

Algeria has also called for a price increase, understood to be backed by Libya.

Saudi Arabia reaffirmed before the meeting here the need to maintain the reference price unchanged for at least a two-year period.

Conference sources said however that the main problem between the "price hawks", and Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies, was over production levels for the second half of the year.

The Saudi-led majority wants to reconfirm last December's OPEC agreement which set a first-half production ceiling of 15.8 million barrels a day (mbd) to underpin the 18-dollar reference price, as well as tentative limits of 16.6 mbd and 18.3 mbd for the third and fourth quarters.

The majority are understood to fear that reopening the laboriously negotiated package would lead to a new bout of open quarrelling over national quotas that could upset "market psychology".

Algeria, on the other hand, has insisted that the first-half limit of less than 16 mbd should be maintained until the year-end in order to keep supply in line with expected demand, and prevent a price slide.

Officials of some delegations, who say Iran and Libya back the Algerian stand, said they believed this was a negotiating position, and that a compromise might be struck if the majority agreed to an average limit of somewhere below 17 mbd until the end of the year.

Indonesia's Energy Minister Dr. Subroto said during the night here that he felt the "most important" thing was to defend the reference price at its present level of 18 dollars a barrel, adding that production levels had to be adjusted in the light of this consideration.

Iran's Lower Quota Accepted

LD290920 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Vienna, June 27, IRNA — Oil ministers of the 14 member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) gathered here have accepted the Iranian proposal calling for reducing the average production of OPEC to 16.6 m. [million] barrels per day for the second half of the current year.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh speaking to reporters here Friday night after holding private talks with several OPEC oil ministers, said that all OPEC members have agreed to limit daily production to 16.6 m.b. for the third and final quarters of the year.

In OPEC last December meeting it was agreed that production ceiling will be 16.6 m.b. per day for the third quarter and 18.3 m.b. per day for the last quarter of the year.

In the 81st session which opened here Thursday OPEC oil ministers have stressed on lowering the production for the second half of the year to maintain the official price of $18 per barrel.

According to OPEC sources the Iranian oil minister during a session with his Nigerian, Indonesian and Saudi Arabian counterparts was able to convince them on the need to limit output to 16.6 m.b. per day. Prior to the meeting Saudi Arabia was against further reduction in the production ceiling.

Through adjustments in production, OPEC output for the next six months is expected to average of 16.2 m.b. per day instead of the predicted 16.632 m.b.

The 16.6 m.b. per day production of Iraq will bring OPEC output to 17.9 m.b. per day for the second half of the year does not include Iraq. [sentence as received] Iraq as before has refused to abide by OPEC's quotas and decisions. The estimated 1.3 m.b. per day production of Iraq will bring OPEC output to 17.9 m.b. per day for the second half of the year.

Reliable sources have indicated that OPEC oil ministers will hold an emergency session in case of any drop in the official oil price of $18 per barrel and will take necessary decisions to counter it. One of the ways suggested, the source said, may be the further reduction of the daily output.

Aqazadehv told reporters that the recent production ceiling will boost spot prices on the world market in comparison to OPEC official price.

The oil ministers are expected to bring up the issue of choosing the organisation's secretary general in their Sunday afternoon session, expected to be the final round.

Kuwati Envoy on Price 'Cheating'

LD281740 Kuwait KUNA in English 1546 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Vienna, Jun 28 (KUNA) — Kuwait Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah listed cheating as the gravest offense among OPEC'S 13 member countries when he addressed media representatives at his Vienna hotel Sunday.

Principally, Shaykh 'Ali said, 'countries which behave have the right to ask others to do so as well....'. He referred to cheating on the national production quota or on discount selling.

Shaykh 'Ali said the ministerial committee set up to motivate 'no less than two and no more than four' OPEC member countries to adhere to the conference-set national production quota. 'Kuwait', he made certain, 'would not be the first or the second member country to cheat on production or prices'.

He pointed out that whether the 16.6 million barrels-per-day (bpd) production limit is "right" or not can be only said in restrospect. For the time being, the 16.6 million bpd is the reference point. 'If demand turns out higher than that let us be fair about it — instead of a few countries grab it all. It's better if all share.'

The ministerial committee set up to monitor prices will certainly sound alarm if prices go down drastically, or up. There is no threshold or 'intervention' level, he pointed out. This is a judgement issue, he said, and that issue has to take a number of factors into consideration.

Price automatics, if a system would be created and would promise to work, could not be put into operation simply because pricing is a matter of national sovereignty.

With regard to differentials, Shaykh 'Ali feels that the issue is not really pressing even if it does continue to exist. For example he feels that light crudes are overrated, but 'only if Kuwaiti crude were affected would we raise the issue.'

One matter that rates first priority among the offenses against OPEC price solidarity is discount selling. Shaykh 'Ali said: 'We should be worried about in-kind deals in any form, be it named barter trade, balance trade, barrel trade, contra trade or bilateral co-operation.'

The matter of "OPEC budget for 1988, including financial savings program, personnel cuts and restructuring the secretariat were administrative matters deferred to the regular conference in Vienna this December. A number of measures had been formally passed by the board of governors earlier this June but the ministers reserved the right to disagree with the measures proposed.

OPEC To 'Finalize' Production

AU271944 Paris AFP in English 1934 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Vienna, June 27 (AFP) -- Oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries met here Saturday night to finalise a deal on oil production restraint in the final quarter of 1987, aimed at bolstering market confidence.

Several ministers confirmed as they entered the conference rooms at OPEC's Vienna headquarters, that 12 of the 13 member countries agreed on a fourth quarter ceiling of 16.6 million barrels a day (mbd) on overall OPEC output.

This would be 1.7 mbd less than stipulated in a formal agreement negotiated last December.

Western oil analysts and traders said the reduction should be enough to preserve market stability by offsetting expanding output by Iraq, which refused to sign the December pact and was not expected to endorse the new agreement.

The initial accord set a production ceiling of 15.8 mbd for the first half of the year and limits of 16.6 qnd 18.3 mbd for the final two quarters.

The ministers began their talks two hours behind schedule after another series of private consultations in the wake of a bid by Kuwait to build into the deal a clause that would call for adjustment of production ceilings if market prices for key OPEC crudes deviate significantly from official price levels set under the December agreement.

Iran, understood to be backed by Algeria and Libya, called this week for a 1.25 dollar increase in OPEC's reference price of 18 dollars a barrel to offset the U.S. dollar's sharp depreciation since the beginning of the year.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait want the reference price to remain unchanged at least until the end of next year,

OPEC Group To Visit Iraq, UAE

LD272215 Tehran IRNA in English 1858 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Vienna, June 27, IRNA — An OPEC delegation comprising oil ministers of Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia is to visit Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after conclusion of the 81st OPEC session in a bid to make Iraq confirm with OPEC resolutions.

Announcing this here today an Iranian delegate at the session said that the issue would be included in the final communique of the current session.

Iraq has openly refused to observe its assigned production quota since last December while UAE despite inking resolutions of the previous session has produced in excess of its quota.

Iraq's official quota during the first half of the current year was 1.466 million out of 15.5 million barrels of OPEC production and its quota during the second half of the year would be 1.540 out of 16.6 million barrels of OPEC output.

The real production of this country during the first six monthsof the year was about 2.1 million barrels per day of which some 310,000 barrels come from the neutral zone given to Iraq as "war aid".

Expansion of exports trunkline by Iraq would help boost its output to 2.6 million BPD for the last quarter of the year while Iran's quota during the second half of the year would stand at 2.369 million BPD, therefore Iraq's production would exceed Iran's quota.

During the first half of the year the UAE has repeatedly produced some 150,000 to 200,000 barrels more than its OPEC quota which was 902,000 BPD. UAE's extra production is expected to be at the same amount during the rest of the year.

According to oil observers Baghdad will seek to exploit the visit of OPEC team for political and propaganda purposes. They also maintain that even though the Iraqi Government should agree to cut down on its production it will not keep its output at par with the Islamic Republic.

Concluding Statement Issued

LD272113 Vienna OPECNA in English 2039 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Vienna, 27 June 87 (OPECNA) — At the conclusion here today of the 81st meeting of the Conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the following press release was issued:

81st meeting of the OPEC conference Vienna, Austria, 25th -- 27th june, 1987 [OPECNA heading]

The 81st meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petrolueum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in Vienna, Austria, from 25th to 27th June, 1987.

The conference unanimously re-elected as its president HE Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, minister of Petroleum Resources of Nigeria and head of its delegation. He Javier Espinosa Teran, minister of Energy and Mines of Ecuador and head of its delegation, was unanimously re-elected alternate president.

The conference reviewed the report of the ministerial monitoring committee, chaired by HE Dr. Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates, the report of the Economic Commission Board and the reports of member countries' marketing representatives. The conference expressed satisfaction about the positive results of the agreement signed in December, 1986, by which OPEC reestablished the barrel system of fixed price at a level of 18 U.S. dollars per barrel supported by OPEC production ceilings distributed into national production levels. The conference noted that all market indicators, including spot prices in the market and netback values of all OPEC crudes, have been firming up significantly, thus consolidating the OPEC price structure as defined by the agreement.

The conference examined the supply/demand outlook for the second half of the year and decided that in order to secure continued firm prices in the market, OPEC production during the fourth quarter of 1987 will be equal to that of the third quarter, i.e. 16.6 million B/D, distributed into the same national production levels as were defined by the above-mentioned agreement for that quarter.

Furthermore, the conference decided to establish a committee of five heads of delegation to monitor the price evolution in the market in relation to the OPEC official prices in order to secure price stability around the OPEC price structure. Should there be any significant change in market prices, the committee would immediately call for an extraordinary meeting of the conference with a view to deciding on the necessary OPEC production levels during the second half of the year, which would secure the desired market stability.

The conference reiterated the necessity of member countries' strict adherence to the agreement signed in December 1986, both in terms of official price, and national production, levels. For this purpose, the conference decided to establish a committee of three heads of delegation to undertake visits to member countries in order to motivate them to comply with the terms of the agreement. Moreover, the conference stressed the necessity of the cooperation of the oil-producing exporting countries outside OPEC as an essential prerequisite for a lasting market stability. The conference, therefore, decided to reinstate the group of five heads of delegation established by the 77th (extraordinary) meeting of the conference in April, 1986 to undertake the necessary contacts with those countries.

The conference observed the continued fall in the value of the U.S. dollar and agreed that the matter should be studied and reported to the next meeting of the conference.

The conference discussed the appointment of the secretary general and decided to discuss the matter again in its next ordinary meeting. Meanwhile, member countries are once more invited, by the end of September 1987, to nominate candidates for this position in accordance with Article 28.A of the statute.

The conference extended the term of office of Dr. Fadhil J. Al-Chalabi as deputy secretary general for a period of one year from 7th October, 1987. The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of the Federal Republic of Austria and the authorities of the city of Vienna for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 27 July, 1987 after ratification by member countries.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna on 9th December 1987.

Reportage on Visit by Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi

Greets Tunisia's Bourguiba

LD291910 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jun (JANA) — While crossing Tunisian airspace en route to Algeria, the brother leader of the revolution sent President Habib Bourguiba a telegram reading: "Your Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, president of the Republic of Tunisia: While crossing Tunisian airspace, it pleases me to greet you and our Arab Tunisian people. I wish you good health and happiness. Colonel Mu‘ammar al-Qadhdahfi.

Begins 'Unexpected' Visit

LD281344 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Mu‘ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived a few minutes ago in Algiers. This unexpected visit has been confirmed by the official news agency APS. No details have been provided on the length of this visit. [passage omitted]

Greeted by President Bendjedid

LD281435 Algiers APS in Arabic 1416 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Algiers, 28 Jun (APS) — Colonel Mu‘ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, arrived at Houari Boumediene International Airport at noon today at the head of an important delegation.

The leader of the Libyan revolution was greeted on his arrival by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN party secretary general.

Afterwards, the leader of the Libyan revolution exchanged handshakes with members of the Political Bureau, the government, the party's permanent secretariat, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Algeria.

Welcome Ceremony Described

LD281612 Tripoli JANA in English 1525 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Algiers, al Sayf [June] 28, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution this afternoon arrived in Algiers on an official visit to brotherly Algeria.

The leader of the revolution was given a massive official welcome headed by Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic of Algeria and the secretary general of the FLN party, who warmly embraced the leader.

Taking part in the welcoming ceremony were members of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee of the FLN headed by Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the FLN as well as the Algerian prime minister and members of the government and senior Army and police officers in Algeria.

Also taking part in the welcoming ceremony were heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Algiers, the secretary and members of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Algiers and the ambassador of Algeria to Great Jamahiriyah.

Accompanying the leader of the revolution in his visit are Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, the general inspector of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau.

Meets With Bendjedid

LD281527 Algiers APS in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Algiers, 28 Jun — Algerian-Libyan political talks were held at the Djenane el Mithak residence today between President Chadli Bendjedid, who is also the party secretary general, and Libyan revolutionary leader Colonel Mu‘ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the Central Committee general secretariat; Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister; Foreign Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahimi; and Mohamed Ben Admed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state for the presidency.

Presented Award by President

LD282248 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid decorated Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, with the Order of Merit in Algiers this evening. The distinction was awarded to Col al-Qadhdhafi as a token of recognition for the Libyan Arab people's moral and material support to the the Algerian revolution for national liberation. It is also a tribute to Col al-Qadhdhafi's continued action in support of Arab unity and his permanent fight against colonialism and imperialism. The decoration also expresses the pride felt for the active role the Libyan statesman plays within the OAU and for his firm support of the Nonaligned Movement.

I remind you that the first Algerian-Libyan political talks took place in Algiers between President Chadli Bendjedid and Col al-Qadhdhafi early this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Attends Banquet; Meets Kuwaiti

LD290154 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On Sunday, 28 June, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, the FLN secretary general, hosted a banquet in honor of the brother leader of the revolution. The dinner, which was held at Djenane el Mithak residence, was attended by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. Also in attendance were Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the FLN permanent secretariat; Prime Minister Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi; members of the Algerian Government, the FLN Political Bureau, and the FLN Central Committee permanent secretariat; and heads and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions to Algeria.

The brother leader of the revolution at his residence in Algiers on Sunday evening received Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, the Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, who gave him a written message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, in connection with current developments in the Arabian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives With Message for President

LD281252 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, the Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, arrived in Algiers this morning. The Kuwaiti minister carries a message from His Highness al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, for Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN party secretary general.

At the airport, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid issued a statement in which he noted that he carried a special message from the Kuwaiti amir to President Chadli Bendjedid. He added that relations linking the two countries and the fraternal Algerian and Kuwaiti peoples are strong and are based on a common understanding of all bilateral issues of interest to the Arab nation.

Syrian Vice President Departs After Talks 23 Jun

LD231702 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam departed Algeria this afternoon after a visit within bilateral consultations to discuss issues of mutual interest. He was seen off at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Political Bureau member and foreign minister, and the Syrian ambassador to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Senegalese Foreign Minister Arrives 28 Jun

LD281440 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Ibrahima Fall, the Senegalese minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Algiers today on an official visit at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs.

This visit comes within the framework of convening the fourth session of the joint Algerian-Senegalese committee. The talks, which begin between the two ministers this afternoon, will focus on consolidating bilateral relations in various fields.

Ghali Criticizes Shamir's Statements on Gaza

NC261522 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted that the Gaza Strip is Palestinian territory and part of the Palestinian homeland. He added that it will remain Palestinian in accordance with the UN resolutions, which demand that Israel withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967.

Dr Ghali was commenting today on the recent statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who said that the Gaza Strip is Israeli territory.

Ghali added: The settlements in Gaza will be removed the same way they were removed from the Sinai. He described Shamir's statements as an obstruction to peace and contradictory to the spirit of the international agreements concluded between Egypt and Israel.

Forces Support Mubarak Nomination for 2nd Term

NC291024 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0952 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, announced the Armed Forces' support for nominating President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to a second term in office. He said: It is an honor for the Armed Forces to see all sectors of the people agree on nominating one of its sons, President Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. We support this, we are proud of it, and we welcome it.

This came in a speech delivered by Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah during a ceremony held today by the Armed Forces to honor a number of retiring officers. [passage omitted]

Coptic Pope Supports Mubarak

NC261328 Cairo MENA in English 1305 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 26 (MENA) — Pope Shinuda the Third of Alexandria today sent a cable of full support to President Husni Mubarak for his renomination for a second term of presidency.

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC270853 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0808 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, adviser to the Kuwaiti amir, arrived in Cairo this morning aboard a special plane for a visit of several hours. He said he is bringing a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to President Husni Mubarak.

Briefs Mubarak on Gulf Issues

NC271207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on developments in the Gulf area, attacks on oil tankers, and the increased laying of mines, which hampers navigation in the Gulf. The message also referred to relations between Egypt and Kuwait.

The message was handed to the president today by 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Atiqi, adviser to the Kuwaiti amir. Al-'Atiqi said after his meeting with President Mubarak that the latter had given him a message for the Kuwaiti amir, expressing his appreciation and feelings of friendship toward Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Commenting on the meeting, the Kuwaiti envoy said: We always expect the best from his excellency the president, and the Kuwaiti amir holds his brother President Muabrak in high esteem. The president was briefed on developments in the Gulf because of the Kuwaiti amir's great respect for his excellency the president and for fraternal Egypt.

Asked whether Egypt will render any technical assistance to Kuwait to remove the mines, Al-'Atiqi said this matter did not form part of his mission, which was confined to apprising the president of current developments.

Leaves With Message for Amir

NC271657 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, adviser to the Kuwaiti Amir, departed Cairo this afternoon following a visit to the city which lasted several hours.

Al-'Atiqi is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in response to the Amir's message, which Al-'Atiqi delivered to the president this morning.

The Kuwait guest was seen off at the airport by a representative of the Presidency and by members of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Cairo [as received].

Yugoslavia's Mikulic Arrives for Talks in Cairo

NC270933 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Branko Mikulic, president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this morning for a 3-day visit, during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Mikulic will also hold talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi on bilateral cooperation in all fields, Middle East developments, and the Nonaligned Movement, specifically in terms of enhancing its role in finding suitable solutions to world problems.

Officially welcoming the Yugoslav leader at Cairo Airport were Dr Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation; and the ministers of tourism, interior, local government, and supply.

Official Talks Begin

NC271414 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Official Egyptian-Yugoslav talks commenced this afternoon under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Mr Branko Mikulic, president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council.

The two sides discussed the situation in the Middle East and ways to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement. [passage omitted]

Talks End; Agreements Signed

NC271632 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Branko Mikulic, president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, stated that his country supports the convocation of a UN-supervised international conference on peace in the Middle East to be attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO. This came in a statement he made following the Egyptian-Yugoslav talks held this afternoon under the co-chairmanship of Mr Mikulic and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The Yugoslav guest added that his country stresses the importance of an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war and the use of dialogue instead of force.

The Yugoslav guest also asserted that his country is working jointly with Egypt, through the Nonaligned Movement, to establish world peace. He added that his country condemns the continuing racial discrimination in South Africa.

Mr Mikulic also commended the existing cooperation with Egypt in various fields.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, in turn, stated that Egyptian and Yugoslav views are similar with regard to international issues, particularly in relation to the Middle East situation, the Gulf war, developments in Lebanon and South Africa, and European security.

Dr Sidqi said that the talks dealt with cooperation in the industrial, agricultural, cultural, and media spheres, as well as in the technical and economic fields.

Following the talks, two agreements were signed, the first on avoiding double taxation in a bid to encourage joint investment activities, and the second on cooperation in social insurance fields. According to the latter, persons working in either country are entitled to equal working rights in the other country.

Mubarak Receives Mikulic

NC281508 Cairo MENA in English 1236 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received here this afternoon visiting Yugoslav Prime Minister Branko Mikulic, with Minister of Supply and Interior Trade Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab attending.

The Yugoslav official arrived here yesterday on a two-day official visit that will be followed by a one-day private visit.

Mikulic Departs for Luxor

NC281844 Cairo MENA in English 1815 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (MENA) — Branko Mikulic, Yugoslav premier ended today his two-day official visit to Egypt and left tonight for Luxor, Upper Egypt, for a one-day private visit.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister, held a tete-a-tete session of talks today with Mikulic, prior to his departure for Luxor, during which they reviewed agreements reached during the visit and the future framework of cooperation in the different fields between the two countries.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi, premier, Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy premier for planning and international cooperation, saw the Yugoslav official and his accompanying delegation off at the airport.

Visit Termed 'Very Important'

NC281927 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has described the Yugoslav prime minister's visit to Egypt as very important in view of the ties linking the two countries. He added that Egypt and Yugoslavia have long-standing economic and technical cooperation agreements, which are being renewed on a regular basis. He also stressed that the development of bilateral cooperation is satisfactory. Sidqi disclosed that the bilateral equal trade agreements are proceeding well and that cooperation also exists in the cultural and media fields.

With regard to political ties between Egypt and Yugoslavia, Dr Sidqi said both countries hold identical views on issues of common concern, because each is a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement. Dr Sidqi said Yugoslavia unequivocally favors the convocation of a UN-sponsored international conference for Middle East peace and that it supports the Palestinian people's right for self-determination and for their own state. The Yugoslavs, he said, also oppose a continuation of the Iraq-Iran war.

Sudanese Opposition Party Delegation Arrives

NC281251 Cairo MENA in English 1150 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (MENA) — The leader of the National Islamic Front (NIF) in the Sudan, Dr Hasan al-Turabi, arrived here this morning leading a delegation on a week-long visit.

In an arrival statement, Al-Turabi paid tribute to the Egyptian-Sudanese relations as "inalienable and dictated by the reality and the joint higher ethics."

Speaking about the Islamic Front in the Sudan, he said some ministerial portfolios have been offered to the front recently, but they did not conform in his opinion, to the responsibility shouldered by NIF.

Sidqi Receives Delegation

NC281254 Cairo MENA in English 1215 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received here today the delegation of the National Islamic Front in the Sudan under Dr Hasan al-Turabi.

The meeting dealt with a review of friendly relations between Egypt and the Sudan in various domains.

Sudanese Culture, Information Minister Arrives

NC281514 Cairo MENA in English 1353 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (MENA) -- Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information Ma'mun Sanadah arrived here today on a few days' visit, to review arrangements for the visit by Sudanese head of state Ahmad al-Mirghani to Egypt to start tomorrow.

Upon arrival the Sudanese minister said that he was carrying a message from Sudanese Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to Premier 'Atif Sidqi dealing with arrangements of Sidqi's visit to Sudan.

The Sudanese official said that his government was exerting strenuous efforts to contain the crisis in southern Sudan by holding a constitutional conference.

He added that the government has extended invitations to all parties and powers to attend the proposed conference.

The Sudanese Government has also sent a message to Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam urging him to set up good ties with Sudan to be based on bon-voisinage and the non-interference into others affairs, he added.

He said that the Ethiopian leader responded positively to this invitation and the Ethiopian information minister has discussed this call in Khartoum recently.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif, who was at hand to welcome the Sudanese official, hailed cooperation between the two countries by virtue of the strong ties linking MENA to SUNA. He further said that there was a good flow of news between the two agencies, members of African News Agency and the Non-Aligend New Agencies Pool (NANAP).

Romanian Official Arrives Prior to Premier's Visit

NC280720 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA) — (Milko Ion), director of the Middle East Department in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived in Cairo early this morning at the head of a Romanian delegation. During his visit to Egypt, the Romanian official will make preparations for Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu's visit to Cairo, which is scheduled to begin on Thursday [2 July]. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Message From Senegalese President

NC281906 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf today. The message comes as part of the continuing consultations between the two presidents with regard to current African affairs and preparations for the 23d OAU summit, due to be held in Addis Ababa next month.

The Senegalese ambassador to Cairo handed the message to Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The two officials also discussed ways to coordinate their two countries' stands during the coming OAU summit.

Thai Official Terms Talks With Mubarak 'Fruitful'

NC281432 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Thai Senate President Dr Ukrit Mongkhonnavin and his accompanying delegation at the Presidency's offices in Heliopolis today. Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi and the Thai ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

Following the session, the Thai Senate president said that he hadconveyed to President Mubarak the greetings of the Thai king and prime minister, as well as their appreciation of President Mubarak as a statesman and as a leading figure in the Non-aligned Movement. The Thai official said that the meeting with President Muabrak was fruitful and stressed the need for closer relations between the two countries.

For his part, Dr 'Ali Lutfi revealed that during the meeting, the two sides had discussed bilateral relations and international affairs. Dr Lutfi said the visit, taking place only 3 months after the Thai prime minister's visit to Egypt, is further proof of the strong and cordial ties between the two nations.

Saudi Prince Salman Departs After 2-Week Visit

NC271308 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Alexandria, 27 Jun (MENA) — Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh, left Alexandria for Saudi Arabia at noon today after a 2-week visit to Egypt.

Prince Salman arrived in Alexandria last Wednesday and stayed at the Al-Muntazah Palace as guest of the president of the Republic.

Prince Sultan's visit, which began on 13 June, was occasioned by the opening of the "Saudi Arabia, Yesterday and Today" exhibition.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Prince Salman during his visit. The prince gave the president a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

ILO To Study Plight of Workers in Libya

NC281024 Cairo MENA in English 0947 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (MENA) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has agreed to study eleven projects of technical assistance to be implemented in Egypt, over and above the 14 rpt 14 projects already under execution at a cost of 12 million dollars.

This was declared by minister of Manpower and Training 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq, who indicated that this agreement was reached during meetings with ILO General Director Francis Blanchard and other officials while he was in Geneva recently.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the minister said he brought up with Blanchard the problem of the Egyptian workers in Libya who had been denied their due payments. An agreement was reached that Blanchard should visit Libya to discuss this problem with the authorities there in preparation for taking the appropriate measures to give the Egyptians their rights, he added.

'Abd al-Haq pointed out that the ILO's concerned departments had studied Egypt's complaint on the issue of the Egyptian workers in Libya in due time and came up with a specification of the Libyan authorities contraventions which are considered a flagrant violation of the international labour agreements to which Libya is a signatory.

Oil Minister Gives Production, Reserve Figures

NC262119 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — Chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, petroleum and mineral resources minister, said Egypt's oil production has reached 317 million barrels a year and its oil and natural gas reserves stand at 4.3 billion barrels. In an interview to be published in *Al-Ahram* tomorrow, Saturday, the minister stated that 78 new sources of oil have been discovered in Egypt during president Mubarak's time in office. These finds have increased the average daily production of crude oil to 870,000 barrels.

Research Minister Leaves for Hungary, Poland

NC280838 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research, left Cairo this morning for a 5-day tour of Hungary and Poland.

During his tour, the minister will discuss scientific cooperation between Egypt and these two countries in light of the scientific cooperation agreements which Egypt has signed with both Poland and Hungary.

Air Force 'Obliged To Combat' U.S. Interference

LD271303 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Washington, 27 Jun (JANA) — The U.S. Department of Defense stated last week that Libyan jet fighters twice flew near a U.S. Navy cruiser in the Mediterranean and that orders were given to the cruiser's crew to confront a possible attack.

The JANA editor for military affairs has responded to this by noting that while Libyan aircraft were carrying out routine reconnaissance flights in the Mediterranean, a U.S. vessel began interfering with one of these planes. Consequently, the interfering party was approached to learn its identity and to warn it against the folly and consequences of this action.

The editor stressed that interfering with Libyan reconnaissance aircraft is a hostile and provocative U.S. act which Libya will not accept. He stated that if Libyan aircraft are subjected to interference or interception during their routine and legitimate missions, then the Libyan Arab Air Force under international law will be obliged to combat the U.S. Naval units.

The editor reaffirmed the Great Jamahiriyah's call for removing foreign fleets from the Mediterranean. These fleets are a source of aggression against the region's nations and a constant threat to their security.

He called on the littoral states to earnestly work to avert this threat inherent in foreign naval fleets.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview With AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM

JN271718 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
25 Jun 87 pp 11-13

[Interview with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* correspondents Fahd al-Masa'id and 'Abdallah al-Shiti at the Al-Nasir Salah al-Din Barracks in the Birkah District of Banghazi — date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency the Colonel: What is your opinion of the Kuwaiti idea to hire Soviet tankers and to raise the U.S. flag on Kuwaiti vessels?

The Colonel: In fact I admire Kuwait's policy, which is a balanced one based on sound Kuwaiti convictions. If Kuwait deems it in its interest to provide protection for its tankers, then it can do what it wants without any pressure.

Your Excellency the Colonel: You do realize why Kuwait has Soviet tankers and why it has requested escort for oil tankers?

The Colonel: Iran accuses Kuwait of assisting the Iraqi war effort against it. We have made several protests to Iran because it attacked Kuwaiti targets and provoked Saudi tankers. Iran has said that as long as Iranian oil is the target of Iraqi attack, it will prevent the export of Iraqi oil through the Gulf just as Iraq is preventing the export of Iranian oil.

Your Excellency the Colonel: The situation in the Gulf demands a Libyan voice or, more correctly, Libyan weight to stop the Iraq-Iran war.

The Colonel: The first thing that we must do is to try and put an end to the war. If this war is stopped, then a new page will be turned in the efforts being made to pave the way for Arab unity. We are determined to exert every effort to end the Iraq-Iran war. We sent an envoy to Iran who met with Iranian officials and informed them that Libya's aim is to stop this war; it is a meaningless conflict and has inflicted grave losses on both sides. He also told them that Zionism and imperialism stand to benefit from this war since their goal is to destroy the capabilities of both Iran and Iraq. We found the Iranian officials to be somewhat intransigent,but they accepted the principle of continuing the dialogue between Libya and Iran until one side convinces the other.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Are there any secret contacts between Iraq and Iran through Arab or foreign mediators?

The Colonel: I do not know anything about this.

Your Excellency the Colonel: But you have an effective role in this regard, do you not?

The Colonel: We are convinced that the Israelis are very satisfied with the continuation of this war and with the destruction of the Iraqi force and the Iranian revolution, for these two things constitute a threat to Zionism and imperialism. They see this as an opportunity to make these forces clash and to exhaust their resources and capabilities. In actual fact, this war is meaningless because the Arabs have no intention of annexing the Iranian nation and Iran has no intention of annexing Iraq.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Have you not noticed that Iran is trying to expand the war and to involve Kuwait as a third side?

The Colonel: Actually, I do not have any confirmation in this regard. However, I do hope that the war will not expand and that we will be able to contain and end it.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Do you not believe that the Iraq-Iran war has surpassed all expectations and limits?

The Colonel: I would have liked this war to have been waged against the shah's regime in Iran because we would then have been the first to fight alongside Iraq. However, we instigated the Iranian people to revolt against the shah and they responded. The revolution was born, the shah was toppled, and Iran became a revolutionary state. The question now is: Why should we fight against a revolution which toppled the shah who was the enemy of the Arabs, an agent of the United States, and the ally of the Israelis? Toppling the shah was a great service for the Arab nation. The answer to this question is that this is a real dilemma. The war has become an real threat to Iraq, which is an Arab state. This is a real dilemma for us as a revolution.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Iran has been shown to be in league with Israel, and Israel is supplying Iran with arms.

The Colonel: As I have disclosed before, this is only applicable to one faction in Iran. I have also said that there is a fifth column in Iran and that there are agents for Israel and the United States within the Iranian revolution. I have stated these things publicly. I have said that the United States and Israel want this war to continue. We do not find it strange that Israel should supply Iran with weapons to ensure a continuation of this war. The Americans are doing likewise, not out of love for Iraq or Iran but out of hate and in order to destroy the two countries. The United States and Israel are out to break the back of Iraq in view of the fact that it is the most important Arab force. They also want to exhaust Iraq's Army, oil, and resources. The Israelis are encouraging the continuation of this war to waste the energies of the Gulf.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Suppose Libya and sisterly Syria undertake a joint effort to end the war and to bring about a cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq?

The Colonel: This is very much on our mind. I am going to send the same envoy who visited Tehran to Iraq to sound out the Iraqi leadership and to communicate to it the thinking of the Iranians. The Iranians have been positive by agreeing to continue dialogue with us until one party convinces the other of its view. This is something new.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Is there a Syrian-Libyan initiative on the table to end the war?

The Colonel (laughing): Syria has a higher stake in the war than we do; it has common borders with Iraq and Israel and is more susceptible than others to regional ups and downs. The bottom line is that the existing inter-Arab differences are rooted in Arab reality. The responsibility for this state of affairs lies with us alone. I ask myself why Iraq and Libya should be in disagreement when they have no common borders, one being in Asia and the other in Africa. However, we have the struggle for Palestine and aspirations for Arab unity in common. I cannot think of one reason why Libya and Iraq should be at odds. To repeat, Iraq has benefited from the war. I consider Iraq's leaders to be the most realistic and responsible among their Arab counterparts. The war has taught them a lesson and made them into something that was not there before the conflict began; war is a bitter experience.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Are you in favor of a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement?

The Colonel: Yes, naturally. Following the 1974 October war, I made great efforts to reconcile them. As a result, President Hafiz al-Asad visited Baghdad. I proposed unity between the two countries and I stand ready to relaunch this initiative, for bringing Iraq and Syria together is a pan-Arab duty.

Your Excellency the Colonel: What about the talks held in Algeria? Is there a new unionist experiment between Libya and Algeria?

The Colonel: The experiment is for the establishment of a federation and not unity. Several years following the establishment of such a federation, the experiment may be promoted to a merger. Within the next few months we will declare the establishment of a federation between our two states, specifically on the day that the Algerian revolution was announced; that is, in November.

Your Excellency the Colonel: What form will this federation take?

The Colonel: It will be a federated state and will have a presidency and federal institutions. God willing, after a few years the experiment may be promoted to a full merger. There will be federal authorities and regional authorities. In other words, each state will retain its system of rule; namely, Libya will continue to have the Jamahiriyah system of rule run by its masses and Algeria will be ruled by the FLN. There will also be a presidential council for the federated state, as well as a national congress, which will be the legislative authority, and an executive commission. Since Libya lies in the center of the Arab world, it is interested in linking the east and west sides of this world in a form of unity or federation. We have made several initiatives in this regard. We fear the terms "the Arab Maghreb," "the Arab east," and "the fertile crescent." We always fight such terms and believe in unionist Arab action.

Your Excellency the Colonel: It may be useful to establish such Arab blocs in order to reduce the multiplicity of Arab regimes, especially since the Arab citizen has despaired of the possibility of establishing comprehensive Arab unity.

The Colonel: Our slogan has always been Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf without blocs, but reality may prompt us to establish a unity in the Arab Maghreb, a unity in the Arab east, or a unity in the Gulf. I regard the establishment of the GCC as a good move. In general, this step is good in view of the fact that the region is exposed to dangers and to foreign interference.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Arabs aspire to the establishment of any form of unity such as the unity of the Arab Maghreb. It is everyone's big dream.

The Colonel: Let us suppose that Libya, Algeria, and those supporting them established Arab Maghreb unity and then a country such as Syria, Sudan, or Yemen wanted to join. This term would not then be in harmony with this unity because Syria lies in the Arab east, so does Yemen and Sudan. Likewise, if Libya wants to join the GCC, it is not a Gulf state. Hence, terminology may be an obstacle to unity. It is better to have federations such as the USSR, the Swiss federation, and the Yugoslav federation. These are reasonable terms and allow any Arab state to join a federation under the term of a federated state.

Our stand on Syria is a basic pan-Arab stand. Syria can join a federation with the Jamahiriyah because Syria is being targeted by Israel and colonialism. If Syria falls, God forbid, then there will be no obstacle impeding a colonialist and Zionist advance in the region. Syria constitutes the most important military force after Iraq. I can say that Syria is ready to enter into a tripartite federation comprising Libya, Algeria, and itself and that there is no problem in this regard.

Your Excellency the Colonel: What about the relations between you and Egypt?

The Colonel: First of all, I am against the normalization of Israeli-Egyptian relations and the Camp David accords. I have sent a message to President Mubarak in which I stressed that Libya is an extension of Egypt's strategic capacity and that Libya's military power and capabilities are at his disposal in the event the Israeli enemy confronted him militarily. This took place 3 years ago. The message was written in my own hand. It was carried by a university professor to Field Marshal [Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim] Abu Ghazalah for delivery to President Mubarak.

Your Excellency the Colonel: President Mubarak has said that he will not embark on vituperations or conflicts with the Arab states and that he is ready to heal the rift with the fraternal countries. Why don't you be the first to extend a hand to him?

The Colonel: First of all, we are against the David stable accords. These accords have greatly harmed the Arab world and have torpedoed 20 years of work exerted by [the late Egyptian president] 'Abd al-Nasir in Africa to gain support for the Arab cause. 'Abd al-Nasir contributed to the building of mosques, schools, universities, and hotels in several African states. All of this was negated by the Egyptian regime's signing of the stable accords. Despite this, we are with this regime against any Israeli threat. We have exerted great effort to convince the African states to sever their relations with Israel. We have also paid enormous funds to achieve this objective. As a result, several African states severed their relations with Israel after the October war.

Your Excellency the Colonel: You have adopted new stands with regard to the Iraq-Iran war and the unity of Palestinian factions within the PLO. This latter move called for satisfaction. Do you have any explanation for these two points?

The Colonel: No Libyan delegation attended the PNC meetings. However, a round of Palestinian talks was held in Tripoli and came up with a document called the "Tripoli Document." Another session of talks was held with the Fatah Central Committee in Algiers. It seemed as though they had reached a formula accepted by some sides but rejected by others. This does not mean that Palestinian unity was fully restored. However, we consider what was achieved to be a positive element. We have contributed to achieving this result, which must not be wasted. We are continuing our efforts to complete Palestinian unity, for there are a group of important factions which remain outside of this unity such as Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] Fatah, Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] Fatah, the PFLP-GC led by Ahmad Jibril, Samir Ghawshah's Popular Struggle Front, and the Al-Sa'iqah organization. All of these factions remain outside the framework of Palestinian unity.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Yasir 'Arafat has praised your stand toward the camps' war in Lebanon.

The Colonel: We consider the camps' war to be a crime. He who struggles against the Palestinian camps is an agent of Zionism and fights on behalf of Israel. Is it a source of pride that the Arabs fight against citizens in the Palestinian camps and destroy them? It is an action which serves the Israeli plan to annihilate the Palestinian people, to disarm them, and to exhaust them. It is extremely painful that an Arab side fights against the Palestinian camps.

Your Excellency the Colonel: There have been speculations about Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud's stay in Syria during the camps' war.

The Colonel: No, no. This is empty talk!

Your Excellency the Colonel: Do you have plans to invite Yasir 'Arafat to visit Libya?

The Colonel: There is no need to invite Yasir 'Arafat to visit Libya. However, there are Palestinian officials who visit us from time to time. Among these officials are Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], and others. We hold dialogue and discussions with them. What basically concerns us is unity among Palestinians. I consider what took place at the PNC to be a positive move which must not be reliquished. However, this is not all that is required.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Do you believe that Syria alone can fight Israel despite its capabilities and armament?

The Colonel: The war with Israel is a pan-Arab responsibility and Syria cannot do this until Arab differences are eliminated and the unity of Arab ranks is achieved. Since Israel receives support from the United States, we should strike at U.S. interests in the region. This is the responsibility of the Arab masses. The United States is the Arabs' archenemy, and its presence in the region is a threat to the Arab nation. The United States wants to make Israel control and dominate the Arab east; it wants to dominate the entire Arab homeland from the Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal through Gibraltar and up to the Mediterranean coast.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Do you think that striking at U.S. interests in the Arab region might harm the Arab economy?

The Colonel: Quite the contrary. The Arab economy is currently paralyzed because it is tied to the United States. The Arabs can be linked to the interests of other countries, such as the USSR which is an ally of the Arabs, has no relations with Israel, and supports the Arabs against their enemies.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Do you believe that we can depend on the USSR if we sever relations with the United States or if we strike at U.S. interests in the region?

The Colonel: What is required is that we first depend on ourselves. The USSR is a friend of the Arabs and hostile to the United States. The USSR has adopted several good stands, such as that toward President 'Abd al-Nasir. However, the Soviet stand with regard to Al-Sadat and Numayri gave a bad image to Soviet relations at the time. Numayri and Al-Sadat were bad examples and this reflected on the Soviets. However, their experience with 'Abd al-Nasir was good because 'Abd al-Nasir did not grant any bases and was neutral. His relations with the Soviets were balanced and based on friendship and respect. We must not forget the USSR's positive stands on Arab issues at the Security Council and the United Nations. There is no harm in bolstering relations with the USSR in the way pursued by 'Abd al-Nasir — a strategic relationship based on mutual respect. We do not necessarily have to be communists to deal with the USSR, contrary to what the United States demands of others.

Your Excellency the Colonel: What is left of the Libyan-Moroccan federation?

The Colonel: The plan was frozen after the Moroccan king announced the dissolution of the federation via radio.

Your Excellency the Colonel: The newspapers have reported the presence of Libyan forces on the Sudanese border.

The Colonel: It is true that Chadian nationalist forces entered the Sudanese border area and that they were regarded as Libyan forces. However, half the population of Chad is Arab Sudanese. Arab tribes are present within Chad and reach Ndjamena in the east; they are also present in southern and central Chad. They are present in half the area bordering Sudan and they are all Arab tribes. Our relations with Sudan are good. The leaders and members of the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party resided in Libya during Numayri's era. We trained, assisted, and armed them and they stayed with us for several years. We extend massive aid to the Sudanese people without announcing it. Convoys and hundreds of vehicles carrying water drills, plows, and agricultural tools and equipment leave Libya for Sudan every month.

Your Excellency the Colonel: What about relations with Britain, and what are Britain's views on the Arab nation?

The Colonel: Britain harbors a deeply-rooted grudge against the Arabs. It is a crusader state. During Thatcher's era it is considered a special U.S. tool used against the Soviet Union, the Arabs, and the Palestinians. Thatcher was the first British prime minister to visit Israel. This is a challenge to all Arabs. As for France, there is a chance for an understanding with it. Our relations with this country are not as bad as some people imagine. The only bad thing in France is that it wants to maintain its old ugly military, colonialist face and it deals with other countries through military bases. It has military bases in Central Africa. This means that the Republic of Central Africa is a French colony. The same is also true of Gabon, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Chad, the Island of Madagascar, the Comoros, Caledonia, and French Guiana in Central America. We are against France and adopt a hostile stand toward it because it is a colonialist state in Africa. However, its policy is different from that of the United States, and its does not submit to the United States as some countries do.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Do you plan to attend the Arab summit conference in Riyadh if it is convened there?

The Colonel: Yes. We will attend the conference. We have begun our contacts with Arab leaders and we stressed to them the need to convene the summit in September, 1987.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Eighteen years have passed since the start of the September revolution. It is a short period of time in the life of a nation but a long one for achievements. Would you please give us a picture of what has been achieved during that period of time?

The Colonel: Revolutions cannot be assessed in years but by their achievements. These may not appear immediately but only after generations have passed. Despite the passing of these 18 years, we still consider ourselves to be at the beginning of the revolution. We have experienced and continue to experience revolutionary action. We still consider ourselves to be at one stage of the revolution, stages which are short for what we want to achieve. Over the last few years, we have learned much and we have gone through important experiences, some of which were negative and bitter. In other words, we have experienced real revolution which is different from other revolutions in the Arab homeland. Iraq has suffered from the war, regardless of what has happened to the other side. Iraq, the Iraqi brothers, and the Iraqi people have undergone a very important historic experience in this war. They have suffered in terms of the number of victims, the economic efforts exerted, the human losses, the victories, and the defeats. It is an extremely important experience similar to that of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Of course, there are other historic experiences such as the one which took place in Algeria during French colonialism and the liberation war. We in Libya had such an experience in the days of Italian colonialism. These 18 years are not so different from the liberation war in Algeria and the Iraqi war. We also faced military confrontations with the United States and the reactionary NATO forces. We fought the French in Uganda and Lebanon. The last 18 years have not all been military battles and the experiences gained have not all been the same. However, it has been a time rich in revolutionary action. We have been carrying out our duties and we have been waging a conflict with the Arab reality in order to achieve our aspirations.

We have experienced victories, setbacks, and frustrations. It has been a hard experience. The past years have not been good ones, but we have managed to enable the people to assume power. Despite this, we are still in the revolution. Therefore, we cannot assess what we have achieved over the last 18 years. The overall results have been rich. We have managed to establish a Jamahiriyah state in the Arab world, among the Third World countries and the contemporary world, at a time when politics were forbidden in Arab countries. Politics have become the task of all the people in Libya. Even the weapons which were once confined to the Army and the police forces are now obtained by the popular masses. Students study the rifle, the gun, and the missile and they can use their weapons and fight anytime they wish.

Moreover, Libya's resources, which were exploited by foreign companies, have been utilized in the interest of the masses and have become the property of the people. Nevertheless, we feel that we are still at the beginning and in an experimental phase. We are discussing how to make factories the property of workers and how to turn workers into partners rather than paid employees. On 1 September a new phase may begin in an effort to make the economic and services institutions the property of the popular masses. We may have worked out a theory which has not been understood in the last quarter of this century. However, it is a new theory which has solved the problems of power, administration, incentives, and ownership. These issues have been solved theoretically, but the features of this theory have not yet become clear practically. Therefore, we cannot export this theory at the present time.

In brief, I am neither a president nor a ruler. I am a revolutionary. We have established the state of the masses ruled by people's congresses and committees. God willing, we will witness important changes this year. There will be a unique, new experiment in the world. Resources must not be the property of the government just like nationalization is not the property of a people nor is it a private property because its revenues will eventually be obtained by the owner of these resources, whether this is an individual or a group of people. Our theory has solved this problem and turned ownership into the property of groups of people; that is, the collective ownership which was mentioned in the second part of the Green Book.

For example, let us suppose that there is a hotel owned by one person or by the state. Here the income will go to either of these two parties which, practically, means a lack in the distribution of income or resources. Collective ownership is designed to make a group of people from the masses the owners of the hotel so that its revenues will go to all of them. These people run the hotel and manage its affairs regardless of whether the state or other parties have built it. Let us take a huge agricultural project, for example, which may employ 1,000 Libyans. They run such a project and distribute its revenues among themselves. This would also be the case with factories and institutions. Eventually you would find that all institutions are owned by groups of people. On a lower level, we may establish small workshops owned, for example, by 10 people. There would be neither employers nor workers but a workshop owned by a group of people.

Your Excellency the Colonel: How will the revenues of projects and factories be distributed among owners? In other words, is there a definite limit on ways to make expenditures, or are they allowed to distribute profits in any way whatsoever?

The Colonel: Basically, all of the revenues would be obtained by the group of workers or the institution that owns the project. But let us suppose that the revenues were large. In this case, taxes would be imposed according to the income of the workers in these factories and institutions to ensure that the society would grow gradually and equally.

Your Excellency the Colonel: Have you faced negative aspects or obstacles?

The Colonel: The major negative aspect is the backward man. Overcoming this negative aspect will require time, because the Arabs have suffered from colonialism and the burdens of backwardness which cannot be easily defeated. The Arabs need a number of years to be saved from social and economic backwardness. Moreover, one's cultural or scientific education cannot be a standard of progress and civilization. There are many educated people who are considered backward as a result of their irresponsible, unwise behavior which negatively reflects on groups of people or on society.

Your Excellency the Colonel: What is the status of the artificial river project?

The Colonel: We have attained a satisfactory level and work is underway to lay huge pipes between Banghazi and the Gulf of Sidra. At a later stage, pipes will be extended to Tripoli. The project costs several billions [currency not specified]. The pipes are 4,000-7,000 km long. It is the largest project ever established on earth. It is one of the world's wonders in view of the fact that the pipe's diameter is 4 meters wide.

Diplomatic Relations With Iran Severed 28 Jun

AB281600 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Nouakchott, June 28 (AFP) — Mauritania severed diplomatic relations with Iran on Sunday [28 June] over Tehran's "(?obstinate) refusal" to negotiate an end to the Gulf war, a Foreign Ministry statement said. It said Iran's stance "threatens the peace and the stability of all countries in the region."

The two Islamic republics have had diplomatic ties for 20 years, although their trade links are virtually non-existent. Both had embassies in the other's capital and officials said Mauritania's ambassador to Tehran was doyen of the diplomatic corps there.

Mauritania, which has never hidden its sympathies for Iraq, "favored an immediate end to hostilities and a negotiated settlement" of the conflict, the statement said. "For almost seven years, a war that is getting more and more murderous has raged in the Gulf causing countless casualties and material losses."

According to Nouakchott, Iran has persistently wrecked peace initiatives by the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Conference, and pursued a "strategy of systematic impediment of freedom of movement in the Gulf aimed at choking the economies of all countries in the region".

Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya received a message from Kuwait's Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah on Saturday on developments in the Gulf. The envoy who delivered the message said that the president had expressed support for measures taken by Kuwait to protect its economy, which is threatened by the war on its borders.

'Text' of Ministry Statement

LD282138 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2032 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has announced in a statement issued today that our country has decided to sever its diplomatic relations with Iran after having ascertained that Iran (?showed no interest) in Arabian Gulf peace negotiations. The following is the text of the statement:

For almost 7 years a devastating war has raged in the Gulf area, one which causes enormous human and material losses daily. Throughout this conflict between two Muslim countries, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has relentlessly called for a cease-fire and for settling this war through negotiation. A number of initiatives were sponsored — particularly by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization — to put an end to this conflict which threatens both regional stability and sovereignty,as well as international peace and security. However, Iran persists in thwarting all of these efforts. It recently has attempted, by using military force, to extend the conflict's scope to include other countries in the region. Iran has also recently committed a fresh violation of international law by devising a strategy aimed at the total obstruction of navigation in the Gulf in order to strangle all the region's national economies.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, out of its eagerness to preserve the safety of the region and the stability and security of the Gulf nations, and after having ascertained that Iran, by its continuous rejection of all negotiations, aims at objectives contrary to all of those listed above, has decided to sever its diplomatic relations with Iran.

President Receives Kuwaiti Envoy, Amir's Message

AB280905 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] A special envoy sent by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti amir, was received by the head of state yesterday. The envoy, Khalid Ahmad al-Jasir, the minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, delivered a message to President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The message, he indicated, touches on developments in the Arab world, particularly in the Gulf region. He further stated after his audience with the president that the head of state had expressed Mauritania's sympathy with Kuwait and its understanding of measures taken by the latter to safeguard its economy in the face of threats posed by the Gulf war.

SDAR Official Arrives With Message for President

LD271418 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Mohamed Salim Ould Sadek, member of the Polisario Political Bureau and secretary general of the SDAR presidency, arrived in Nouakchott this morning. He told the *Mauritanian News Agency* on his arrival that he carries a message from SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz to Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. He added that the message comes under the framework of consultations between the two countries and deals with the latest regional developments.

KUWAIT

Soviet Envoy Discusses Oil Tanker Agreement

LD270916 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 27 (KUNA) — Soviet Ambassador in Kuwait Ernest Zverev said in an interview published here Saturday ensuring safe shipping in the Gulf was a key component of Moscow's foreign policy.

Moscow, he said, believes the problem of secure navigation in the Gulf and the ongoing Iran-Iraq war were so closely interrelated problems that one cannot be solved to the exclusion of the other.

The Soviet official who was talking in an interview published in Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Watan*, said Moscow's acceptance to lease three Soviet oil tankers to Kuwait was a purely mercantile agreement which serves the interests of the two parties.

"The only political purport of the accord is that one party was responding favorably to a request from a friend...in an amicable manner," according to the Soviet ambassador.

Zverev emphasized the accord on leasing Soviet tankers to Kuwait did not involve any political privileges for Moscow and that the agreement had no secret terms.

Responding to a question, the ambassador said his country, if approached, would consider any Kuwaiti request for assistance in sweeping sea mines from the Gulf.

Press reports said last week Iran had mined several areas of the Gulf near the ports of bordering Arab countries. A Soviet tanker hit a mine last month as it was approaching a Kuwaiti port.

Zverev strongly condemned attacks on merchant ships, saying such acts only serve to heighten tension in the region and pave the way for foreign military buildup.

He said Moscow would take "the appropriate measures" for protecting its vessels in the region. He would not specify but said such measures would conform with international navigation laws.

Asked by *Al-Watan* if the Soviet Union was prepared to increase its presence in the Gulf so as to escort leased tankers, the ambassador said that Moscow almost instantly approved Kuwait's request for the one year tanker's lease.

He noted that Moscow's quick and favorable response mirrored the drive for change which the Soviet Union is now experiencing.

Speaking of the accord under which Kuwait had leased three Soviet tankers, the Soviet ambassador said it allows for an increase in the number of those tankers if the need arises.

Official Praises Austrian President Waldheim

LD281449 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 28 Jun 87

[by Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, June 28 (KUNA) — Kuwait holds Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in great esteem as an honest and sincere world figure who has devotedly served the cause of peace, according to a senior government official Sunday.

Acting Foreign Undersecretary Faysal al-Salih al-Muttawa said the Austrian president has strong personal ties with senior Kuwaiti officials.

Muttawa, who was talking to KUNA after a meeting with the Austrian Ambassador Wolfgang Stieninger, praised Waldheim as a man who has commanded world respect for his devotion to world peace and his efforts to defuse global tensions in the 1972-1982 period during which he was U.N. secretary general.

The Kuwaiti acting foreign undersecretary said the ambassador briefed him on the outcome of Waldheim's recent visit to the Vatican.

Al-Muttawa said Waldheim's forthcoming visi to Jordan would underline the Arab world's admiration of the Austrian president.

Court Opens Trials for 'Plotting', 'Inciting'

LD271026 Kuwait KUNA in English 0928 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 27 (KUNE) — The State Security Court Saturday opened hearings in two cases in which a total of 15 Kuwaitis are facing charges ranging from plotting and inciting against the country's regime to obstruction of justice and attacking security men.

In the first case, 7 defendants, including three minors, were accused of circulating leaflets last April and May inciting the overthrow of the country's regime by unlawful violent means.

The leaflets also included slander of his highness the amir, according to the indictment sheet.

In another case, eight Kuwaitis faced charges of obstructing justice and attacking security men last January when police were cordoning off the residence of a wanted criminal.

The eight defendants were also accused of gathering with criminal intent and refused to disperse when ordered by police to do so, the indictment sheet said.

Some of them were accused of illegal possession of fire arms and heavy objects apparently meant to be used as weapons like stones and iron bars.

The defendants, who are accused of rioting, fired at the time and shot at a policeman injuring him in the leg and damaged police patrol cars and other police equipment.

Official Leaves for Iraq on 'Diplomatic Drive'

LD272101 Kuwait KUNA in English 1430 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 27 (KUNA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi left here Saturday for Baghdad on a short visit to Iraq.

Al-'Usaymi is scheduled to convey a message from H.H. the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on latest developments in the Arab Gulf region.

The visit falls in line with an intensified Kuwaiti diplomatic drive in Arab and Islamic countries that started last week with a quick swing of deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad in Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Shaykh al-Sabah handed Amiri messages to the GCC leaders while Al-'Usaymi made similar trips to Amman and Damascus for the same purpose.

On similar missions, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Ahmad al-Jassar yesterday flew to the Arab Maghreb states. Advisor at the Amiri Diwan [royal council] 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi Saturday delivered a message from H.H. The Amir to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Al-'Usaymi Returns From Baghdad

LD281511 Kuwait KUNA in English 1254 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, June 28 (KUNA) — Kuwait's state minister for foreign affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi returned home Sunday from a brief visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Foreign Minister's GCC Tour

LD281622 Kuwait KUNA in English 1445 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 28 (KUNA) — The Council of Ministers today underlined the strong fraternal bonds and feelings as well as the complete support and praise expressed by countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council towards the step taken by H.H. the Amir of Kuwait at this delicate stage passed by the Arab Gulf region.

The cabinet, meeting at a regular session today under H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, was briefed by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on results of his tour last week in the GCC states.

During the tour, Shaykh Sabah delivered messages from H.H. the Amir to those leaders dealing with current developments in the Arab area and the Gulf in particular as well as the grave situation resulting from continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, its implications and ways necessary to contain it and restore peace, security and stability in the region.

The council's secretary general 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Utaybi stated following the session that the cabinet was informed by Shaykh Sabah on the context of his meetings held during the tour "and the profound feelings he felt as well as the fraternal bonds, complete support and commendation of his highness' step (taken) at this delicate phase passed by the region".

The cabinet, the spokesman said, heard a similar report by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi on the outcome of his official visit to Baghdad where he met with President Saddam Husayn and handed him a message from H.H. the Amir.

During talks with senior Iraqi officials, focussing on overall Arab issues and current developments in the Gulf, Al-'Utaybi said brothers in Iraq reaffirmed full understanding and support of Kuwait's stance and steps, adding that an assessment was made of international efforts exerted to halt the Iraq-Iran war and reach a just settlement that would guarantee the rights of both sides through dialogue and negotiation with the aim of attaining well being and interests of peoples in the region.

The visits, made by Shaykh Sabah and Minister al-'Usaymi, are part of the diplomatic campaign and consultation with brothers regarding everything of national interest or contributing to Arab solidarity, the spokesman noted.

The cabinet further reviewed regional and world political developments as reported by Kuwaiti missions abroad and the outcome of the earnest efforts and contacts under way to bring closer Arab viewpoints with the aim of strengthening Arab collective work and ability to confront existing challenges, he said.

The session heard an account by each of the ministers of communication and information on their respective official visits to Democratic Germany and the Kingdom of Bhutan during which agreements were concluded on scientific, technical and information cooperation, he added.

It also discussed and approved the draft ministries and government departments' budget for fiscal 1987-88 and referred it to the Amiri Diwan [royal council], Al-'Utaybi said, concluding that other local agenda items were discussed by the cabinet which took the appropriate decisions in their respect.

PDRY

Bureau To Grant Amnesty to Detainees From Coup Bid

EA281847 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the YSP Central Committee held a regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee. The meeting considered a number of subjects on its agenda. In light of the outcome of the general party conference, the Political Bureau devoted a great deal of its discussion and deliberations to the completion of the centralization of the party, and the administrative and economic situation in Abyan and Shabwah governorates.

The meeting decided on a series of measures to tackle the damage caused to many of the economic, cultural, and health facilities and other government and population service projects. This damage was caused by the deviationist practices and plundering of the assets of these facilities by elements of the rightist opportunist current which used to occupy positions of leadership in these two governorates before and during the events of the bloody events of the 13 January conspiracy. The Political Bureau has charged the competent authorities in the party and government to take urgent measures to implement its decisions in this regard.

The Political Bureau also reviewed the progress of the implementation of the general amnesty and decided to release the remaining detainees who were involved in the events resulting from the conspiracy of 13 January 1986. Some 80 detainees will be released.

The release of these people completes the release of all the detainees covered by the 1986 general amnesty decision.

The Political Bureau also approved the preparatory plan to mark the 20th anniversary of national independence, the 25th anniversary of the 26 September revolution, and the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The Political Bureau also approved the implementation of work on the following roads effective from the beginning of 1987: Al-Hubaylayn to Al-Dhali road; (Al-Wahd) to Khawr al-Baha road; Dabut to Al-Ghaydah road.

Afghanistan's Kawiani Meets With YSP Officials

LD281414 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Aden, June 25 [date as received] *Bakhtar* — Najmoddin Kawiani, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC who at the invitation of the Yemen Socialist Party, YSP, is taking part in the all-party conference of the said party held in Aden, met 'Ali Salim al-Bid, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party.

Also, Kawiani met Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin Politburo member and secretary of YSP in the international affairs and 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali Politburo member and minister of foreign affairs of PDRY and briefed them on the out-comes of the plenum of the PDPA CC held this month and the process of national reconciliation.

During the meetings, views were exchanged on the possibilities of further consolidation and expansion of friendly relations between the parties, governments and brotherly peoples of the two countreis in detail. The possibility of the establishing of political representative of PDRY in Kabul was also discussed.

Kawiani also met A.M. Husayn, Politburo member of Yemen Socialist Party and chairman of Yemen-Afghan Friendship Society as well as delegates of progressive and worker parties of Arab countries and appraised them on the June plenum of the PDPA CC and realisation of the policy of national reconciliation in the DRA.

SAUDI ARABIA

Arms Talks With France Reportedly 'Revived'

NC251940 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Text] Paris, 25 June, (MENA) — MENA has learned from informed French sources that the Saudi-French talks that began last year on sales of French fighter planes and tanks to Saudi Arabia are again under way.

MENA also has learned that these talks were revived after an Iraqi warplane accidentally attacked a U.S. frigate in the Gulf waters, an incident which marred Saudi-U.S. relations and caused U.S. congressional opposition to the White House request for approval of a missile and weapons deal with Saudi Arabia. This opposition stemmed from the fact that Saudi AWACS planes did not halt the Iraqi plane before it attacked the U.S. frigate, and it extended to all White House requests, as well as to offers made by some U.S. companies to supply Saudi Arabia with M-1a2 tanks.

Wanting to overcome this crisis, the United States sent Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to the south of France at the beginning of this month to meet with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who was on a private visit there, to explain the U.S. position on congressional decisions against Saudi Arabia. According to these sources, it seems the Saudi response was to revive talks with Western Europe to conclude an arms deal that would compensate for the U.S. Congress's refusal to supply Saudi Arabia with U.S. weapons.

MENA also has learned that Saudi Arabia plans to buy approximately 100 Mirage-4000 planes from the French company Dassault. The Mirage-4000 is a new French two-engine combat plane that seats two pilots, while the Mirage-2000 accommodates only one pilot. France was quick to act, giving a private review of the plane and its unique capabilities to both prince Khalid ibn Sultan, commander of the Saudi Air Force, and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during their recent visits to France.

Regarding the Saudi demand for European tanks, it has been learned that a number of countries have made sales offers to Saudi Arabia, including Brazil, which makes the Ozario tanks; Britain with its Challenger tanks; the FRG, which makes the Leopard tanks; and France, which together with Germany manufactures the AMX-40 tanks. Since France shipped two AMX-40 tanks to Saudi Arabia last year for testing on sandy soil, and the Saudis were therefore abie to get a clear picture of its capabilities, just as they did with the Mirage-4000 plane, the likelihood of France closing the tank deal is increased.

At the same time the talks on plane and tank deals between the Saudis and the Western Europeans have been renewed, there is still what is termed the deal of the age; namely, the Saudi request for six submarines to protect its coast. A number of French, British, West German, and Dutch companies are still competing for this contract.

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting 28 Jun
LD282019 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Jun (SPA) — His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, returned to Jeddah this evening after leading a delegation from the Kingdom to the 81st OPEC conference which ended its proceedings early yesterday in Vienna.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Kuwaiti Minister Departs After Conveying Message
JN281711 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Dhari al-'Uthman, justice minister of fraternal Kuwait, left Sanaa this morning following a brief visit to the YAR. During the visit he delivered a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, dealing with the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly in the Gulf.

In a statement to SABA', Brother Dhari al-'Uthman said that he is carring a reply message from brother leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-ahmad al-sabah, amir of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti minister wished the strong relations between the two fraternal countries further promotion and progress. He was seen off by Justice Minister Brother Ahmad al-Jubi, a delegate from the Presidency Protocol Department, and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Sanaa Brother Musa Sulayman al-Musa.

General Staff Chief Departs for Djibouti 26 Jun
JN261420 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of the General Staff and member of the Standing Committee, left for Djibouti this morning leading our country's delegation to participate in sisterly Djibouti's celebration of the 10th anniversary of its national independence.

In a statement to SABA', Brother al-Bashiri said he carries a message from Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon on promoting the fraternal ties between the Yemeni and Djibouti peoples in the service of their common interests and objectives. Concluding his statement, Al- Bashiri affirmed that the strong ties between our peopels and countries are special and distinguished.

UAE

Shaykh Zayid Visits Sharjah, Meets With Sultan
JN261913 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1854 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 26 Jun (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, paid a visit to Sharjah Amirate this evening during which he met with His Highness Shaykh Dr Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and Sharjah ruler. He wanted to be reassured about the situation at the end of the temporary crisis in the amirate. He also paid the visitout of his concern with embodying the spirit of the one family and deepening ties among the large family in the UAE.

The meeting was attended by their highnesses the Supreme Council members; the heir apparents; and a number of shaykhs, ministers, and heads of departments and institutions in Sharjah.

Presides Over Council Meeting
JN271204 Doha QNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jun (QNA) — The UAE Supreme Council held a meeting today under His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, at his highness' palace in Falaj al-Mu'alla area near Al-Shariqah. In a statement after the meeting, a responsible source said the Council discussed the current Arab situation and its dimensions, as well developments in the Gulf area.

The meeting was attended by all Supreme Council members, the rulers of Sharjah, Ra's al-Khaymah, Umm al-Quwayn, 'Ajaman, Al-Fujayrah; the heir apparents of Dubai, Sharjah, Ra's al-Khaymah, Umm al-Quwayn; the representative of the ruler in the eastern region of the Abu Dhabi Amirate; and the UAE president's representative.

Reports from Gulf War Battlefronts Continue

Communique No 2,723 Issued

JN261639 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,723 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have shared their celebrations with our great Iraqi people on the decisive and overwhelming victory achieved by our brave men from the heroic Al-Faris Forces and the I Army Corps, pledging to God to form a solid wall to protect Iraq in the face of aggressors.

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force continued its brave activities against the enemy today. Its 105 combat missions inflicted heavy losses on the Zionist aggressors. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our daring helicopters carried out a series of daring raids against enemy positions, vehicles, and assembly points in all areas of operation. They sent the scoundrels to their deaths and destroyed enemy equipment during 73 combat sorties. Our helicopters then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

3. Six enemy boats attempted to approach the Al-'Amiq Port. The brave port force confronted the enemy boats with various weapons and forced them to flee.

4. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah pounded eight enemy formations using various weapons and destroyed most of them. In other areas in the same sector, six enemy ammunition dumps, three infantry positions, and two observation posts were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed.

5. The despotic Khomeyniite clique, using long-range artillery, shelled residential areas in the brave city of Basra. Civilian houses and property were damaged as a result.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 June 1987

Six Aircraft Denied Downed

JN261901 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1846 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA) — Iraq has denied Iranian claims of downing six Iraqi planes in the northern sector today and has affirmed that all Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base following their missions over the battlefront.

In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi military spokesman declared that such lies are a cheap way of covering up the Iranian regime's abysmal battlefield failure in the face of the Iraqi forces.

The spokesman said the Iranian regime can find no way to justify its constant failure and enormous losses other than by resorting to such worn-out methods that have also been exposed to the whole world.

3 Heights in North 'Purged'

JN270940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA) — Last night the Iraqi Armed Forces purged two new heights, 1,533 and 1,530, located in the northern sector. In a statement to INA a short while ago, an Iraqi military spokesman said that Iraqi forces annihilated the Iranian formations located and stationed on the two heights. The Iraqi spokesman added that the Iranians three times last night and today attempted to approach the newly liberated positions, but all these attempts were doomed to failure. The military spokesman declared that Iraq's forces killed approximately 1,000 Iranians, wounded many more, and forced the Iranian formations to retreat.

The military spokeman denied that any Iraqi aircraft was shot down yesterday, stating: The Iranians commonly issue false statements on the military situation when they face defeat. He added: We expected such lies. The spokesman continued: Iraq announced an aircraft accident in its military communiques as occurring the day before yesterday, when one of its aircraft was lost. The pilot that Iran claims to have captured is the captain of the aircraft shot down on 25 June and already noted in our communique.

The Iraqi spokesman challenged Iran to prove that it had downed any Iraqi aircraft yesterday. He added that Iran's claims of still searching for the aircraft's wreckage is a naive justification and exposes the Iranians' lies. When an aircraft is downed, the side that downed it should know how and where it fell.

The Iraqi spokesman affirmed that the Iraqi forces' victory yesterday means that all operations the Iranians named Nasr were doomed to failure, whether in the I Army Corps, II Army Corps, or IV Army Corps sectors.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi spokesman called on the Iranian people to take their rulers to task. They should do this because of their forces' heavy losses and the Iranian Government's military failure, if they want to preserve the blood of their sons from these abortive adventures.

In a subsequent statement, the military spokesman said Iraqi forces succeeded in purging height 1,360 in the northern sector in addition to the two heights they purged last night.

Iranian Northern Losses Noted

JN271125 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, June 27, INA — 32 Iranian enemy vehicles, two tanks and three bulldozers were destroyed during the last 24 hours by Iraqi helicopter gunships and artillery units at the northern sector of the battle front, an Iraqi military spokesman told INA today.

Communique No 2,724 Issued

JN271716 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,724 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 June 1987]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The followig is a roundup of our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. In exploiting our great victories yesterday, the heroes of the I Army Corps, the brave Al-Harith Forces, and the forces integrated with them under the command of Staff Brigadier General Nasif Shakir Mahmud launched a strong crushing attack, once again demonstrating the Iraqi fighters' courage, efficiency, and faith. With God's help, our men purged the important border heights 1,533, 1,530, and 1,360. In this battle, our infantry, special forces, and tank soldiers, supported by our powerful artillery and brave helicopter gunships, demonstrated great courage and steadfastness. The knights of our helicopter gunships carried out 80 combat missions. As a result, ourmen managed to hoist Iraq's beloved flag over the peaks of our proud mountains. In this battle, our forces annihilated hundreds of enemy scoundrels and wounded a great number more. Our soldiers and the helicopter gunship knights in the heroic I Army Corps sector destroyed 32 vehicles and two tanks. They also inflicted heavy losses on the enemy's weapons, military equipment, engineering works, and equipment. You should be proud, O loyal men of the Al-Harith Forces — commanders, officers, and other ranks. God preserve you — commanders, officers, and other ranks.

2. As further proof of the enemy's high losses following its abortive attack against our heroic IV Army Corps on 18 June — in addition to the great quantity of weapons and equipment captured on the day of the battle and subsequent days as announced and displayed to the citizens — our forces found 35 GC rifles, 3 medium-calibermachineguns, 8 RPG-7 launchers, and a large quantity of equipment, including 8 radio sets, 80 steel helmets, 46 coils of ammunition, 1 DSHK machinegun, 12 antitank missiles, 8 directed missiles, 283 ammunition magazines, 1 60-mm mortar, 43 pieces of military hardware, and 1 SPG-9 gun. God be praised for his generosity and support.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 June 1987

Communique No 2,725 Issued

JN281652 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,725 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant Armed Forces continued their heroic combat activities in various operational areas and inflicted further losses on the Zionist Khomeyniite aggressors. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our brave hawks resumed their daring raids against enemy units in the operational theaters, inflicting grave losses on the aggressor scoundrels and destroying their positions on top of them. They carried out 46 combat missions and returned with their aircraft safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships carried out 23 combat missions against enemy concentrations and weapon emplacements. They inflicted new losses on the enemy and then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our victorious forces in the I Army Corps northern sector continue their heroic and efficient confrontation against the Iranian evil ruling clique's remnants. They are directing devastating fire against the scoundrels and destroying their equipment and positions behind the lines. The following losses have also been confirmed: 14 different vehicles burned or destroyed and their occupants killed; other vehicles damaged; 2 120-mm guns destroyed; 2 106-mm guns, 2 machineguns, 5 weapon emplacements, and a number of ammunition dumps destroyed; and a large number of scoundrels killed or wounded. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

4. Our valiant units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan used artillery to pound 20 enemy positions opposite our units and inflicted on the Khomeyniites losses in life and equipment.

5. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah managed to achieve the following: the destruction of one mortar, the destruction of two shovels [preceding word in English], and the damaging of two others; the destruction of four enemy observation posts, one observation tower, and two ammunition dumps; and the halting of enemy engineering work.

6. One scoundrel was killed and one ammunition dump, three positions, and one observation post were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 June 1987

Two Aircraft Denied Downed

JN281831 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman this evening denied Iranian claims of downing two Iraqi planes. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi military spokesman described these claims broadcast by Tehran radio this evening as lies that represent the Iranian regime's sole method of concealing its grave losses at the hands of Iraqi forces. He claimed that all Iraqi aircraft taking part in today's combat missions in operational theaters returned safely to base.

'Large Maritime Target' Struck

JN291009 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jun (INA) — Iraqi warplanes attacked a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, delivered an accurate, effective blow, then returned safely to base. In a statement to INA, a military spokesman reported that Iraqi aircraft at 0939 [0539 GMT] today launched a successful attack on this large maritime target near Iran's coast. The spokesman declared that

Iraq will continue this course of action, thus implementing its firm, legitimate right to defend its territory and citizens by depriving the Iranian regime of any resources and supplies that would help it continue this war against Iraq.

Iranian Northern Claims Denied

JN291103 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jun (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian claims that battles were waged in the five following areas in northern Iraq: Halabjah, Sayyid Sadiq, Jinaghgian [name as received], Kani Bankah, and Sarab Salman Agha. In a statement to INA, the military spokesman described these claims as totally groundless. He declared that not a single shot had been fired in these areas over the past 2 days and asserted that the battles the Iranian regime has referred to are imaginary and fabricated by its sick imagination. He noted that Iraq knows the Iranian regime's exact military, political, and propaganda objectives. The spokesman added that the Iranian regime's communiques on these imaginary battles represent the peak of its lies and attempts to deceive the Iranian people.

The spokesman affirmed that the areas where Iran claims battles are underway are open to Arab and foreign media correspondents, as well as to those persons whom Iran wishes to send there. The Iraqi spokesman declared: It would be better for the Iranian Government to tell the Iranian people of the heavy losses their forces suffered in the northern sector instead of fabricating lies that will not be accepted even by the most naive of people.

The spokesman stated that Iran's rulers will only reap defeat whatever they do because Iraq is lying in wait for them.

Peres Reportedly Meets Soviets, Chinese Secretly

TA280717 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jun 87 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] At the end of last week, in a mountainous holiday region of Switzerland, Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, held secret meetings with figures from countries that do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. According to unconfirmed reports, Peres met with Chinese and Soviets.

Peres had been scheduled to hold weekend meetings with the senior Soviet diplomat Polyakov, who is responsible for the Middle East desk in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and with the Swiss vice president. The foreign minister's office worked to keep the fact of these meetings secret and denied their existence to the media.

Peres' meetings with the foreign statesmen were arranged recently in coordination with the Swiss Government.

Peres: PRC Statement on Forming Ties 'Intentional'

TA290518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Israeli Ambassador in Paris 'Ovadya Sofer conferred this week with the PRC ambassador in Paris on the Chinese declaration on establishing relations with Israel as part of the preparations for an international conference. The PRC ambassador did not deny the report, although he noted that the announcement was made verballyand not as a written statement. This was reported by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, in an interview with our correspondent in Bonn, Yisra'el Segal:

[Begin recording] [Segal] When Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, met yesterday with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, one of the main issues discussed was the PRC. Kohl promised Peres he would raise the issue of establishing diplomatic relations between Beijing and Jerusalem in approximately 2 weeks, during his official visit to the PRC. Peres, who was greatly encouraged by the latest Chinese statement, asked Kohl to send out feelers during his visit and examine how and under what conditions the Chinese see the ways to reach this dramatic breakthrough or the establishment of diplomatic relations as part of the campaign to convene an international conference.

In an exclusive interview to the Voice of Israel last night, Mr Peres revealed that in the wake of an initial examination conducted in Paris at his instruction, it was clarified that the PRC statement was intentional and significant, and that a chance exists to establish such relations within the framework of negotiations for the convening of an international conference.

[Peres] First of all, something happened within the narrow Chinese sphere as presented by the No. 2 man in the PRC Embassy in Paris; this is an interesting proposal. I asked our ambassador to check out the nature of this proposal with the PRC ambassador, who said the statement was verbal and not written, but did not deny its contents. I now believe Israel is facing extraordinary opportunities.

[Segal] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke for more than 3 hours with his German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher. On the agenda was the issue of European support for convening an international conference to promote the peace process in the Middle East. Genscher will raise the issue at the EEC meeting in Brussels today, and European support for Mr Peres' position is expected. Mr Peres revealed last night that he conveyed a message on this issue to the Russians through Genscher, who leaves for Moscow on Wednesday.

[Peres, picked up in midsentence]...in order to clarify where the Russians, the Arabs, Israel, and the FRG stand.

[Segal] In the message to be conveyed by Genscher, did you ask specific questions about the Soviet Union's participation in an international conference?

[Peres] Yes, I asked questions about three matters: the opening of the gates of the Soviet Union to Jews; the resumption of relations; and the conference which would have an opening, not a directing, role.

[Segal] Mr Peres, you are an experienced diplomat. In what areas do you believe the fundamental differences between the Soviets and us can be bridged?

[Peres] In my opinion, if the Soviets do not want to bridge the gaps, a fallback position should be prepared; that is, an international framework without the Soviets. I am not prepared to go along with the Russians under every circumstance. The Russians should take part only if they can or are willing to contribute something; if they are not prepared to do so, what good would their participation do?

[Segal] Today at 1300 Israeli time, Mr Peres will confer with FRG President Richard von Weizaecker. On Wednesday Weizsaecker will make a historic visit to the Soviet Union. He will also be asked by the foreign minister to find the opening in the Iron Curtain which would enable the resumption of relations between Israel and Moscow. [end recording]

PRC Embassy Denies Contacts

TA291119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] The PRC Embassy in Paris has strongly denied a meeting between the Israeli and PRC ambassadors that took place in France. As long as diplomatic relations do not exist between the two countries, no such meeting will be held. This was said by the PRC Embassy spokesman to our correspondent Nicola Rosenbaum. The spokesman also said there had been no contact between the two embassies, adding that the PRC's position on the Middle East remains unchanged. This morning it was reported that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had announced that the Israeli ambassador in Paris spoke with the PRC ambassador about his country's statement on the possibility of establishing diplomatic ties.

No Coordination With U.S. On Envoy to Syria

TA280424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem say that the decision by the Reagan administration to send an envoy to Damascus was made without coordination with Israel. The White House has confirmed news reports that it will send an envoy to Damascus to discuss the improvement of relations between the United States and Syria, as well as the situation in the Middle East. Britain said it will follow in the administration's footsteps until it has proof that Syria has ended its support for terror.

U.S. Requests Proposal for New Missile Plan

TA280825 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 87 p 6

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] A few weeks ago the U.S. Administration formally requested a formulated proposal from the Israeli Defense Ministry to combine research and development of the new Hetz [arrow] missile planned by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI].

The Hetz is intended to serve as a missile against short- and medium-range ballistic missiles and may be incorporated in the U.S. Administration's "Star Wars" project. According to IAI estimates, $80 million will be required to complete the initial stage, until the first presentation of the missile. A further sum of about $45 million will be required until the completion of the second development stage, and a total of several hundred million dollars until the completion of all the development stages. If it is decided to accept IAI's concept, the U.S. Administration will allocate part of the sum required for the initial development stage and will require Israel to participate in part of the investment.

IAI plans to complete the development stage, up to the presentation of the missile, within 2 years. If IAI gets the contract for the Hetz development, it will open negotiations over cooperation with large U.S. companies that have already shown interest in the new missile. One of the U.S. companies that has applied to IAI for the purpose of cooperating on the issue is engaged in the production of antiaircraft missiles.

The Hetz is planned to have an unusual maneuvering ability.

IAI's competitors in the development of an antimissile missile are European and U.S. companies, including M.M.B. and Dornier, both of which are engaged in the development of their missiles in joint working groups with U.S. companies. Working teams from the U.S. firms ICA, LTV, and Lockheed are also working on a similar missile.

Shamir Calls on Labor to Support Direct Talks

TA261800 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called on the Labor Party to return to the principle it accepted upon the establishment of the national unity government and support direct negotiations with the Arab countries. In a lecture in Tel Aviv, the prime minister firmly attacked the foreign minister's intentions to summon an international conference. He voiced the fear that Israel would be isolated in such a conference, where even friendly countries might support a return to the 1967 borders and the giving up of East Jerusalem. Mr Shamir added that an international conference is nothing but a Soviet formula and must consequently be struck off the agenda.

Cites Conditions for Peace

TA290924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear today that the peace process in the Middle East can only be promoted if two conditions are met: If Jordan agrees to hold direct negotiations with Israel, and if Egypt is prepared to resume the autonomy talks. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister made these remarks this morning in a talk with Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Bradley leaves for Cairo tomorrow, and will convey the remarks to President Mubarak.

Knesset Committees Hear Review on Lavi Project

TA280806 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 87 pp 1,6

[Report by Tzvi Zerahya, 'Edna Aridor, Re'uven Pedatzur, and Dan Margalit]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At the end of the week, the Knesset Finance Committee and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee held a joint meeting with the defense minister and General Staff officers. The meeting was aimed at obtaining the support of the members of both committees for the Defense Ministry position favoring putting a stop to the Lavi project. [passage omitted]

The meeting was held on Friday in the Defense Ministry and will be continued next Friday. Some 25 Knesset members attended.

In the discussion Defense Minister Rabin reviewed the three possibilities facing us: continuing with the Lavi, Zakheim's alternatives, and the IDF alternatives. Rabin said that "looking at it from the viewpoint of security versus dollars, the Lavi is not a good plane. In the current budget there is no Lavi. In the existing budget I will oppose the Lavi. The Lavi is very tightly tying up as much as $550 million and the budget will become even less flexible than it is today."

Air Force Commander Major General 'Amos Lapidot presented an operational comparison of the Lavi versus the F-26, model C. He said that "for purposes of decision, both planes are similar in their performance." Later, when pressed by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, Lapidot also admitted the Lavi could not be produced in the existing budget.

The head of the Lavi Project Directorate, Menahem 'Eyni, disclosed that for the time being there is a delay of 1 year in the development stage. He said the cost of converting the shekels permitted Israel by the U.S. Administration "is insufficient to keep up speed and complete the development by 1991, in accordance with the plan." According to him, by 1991 another $212 million will be lacking, this on the assumption that the industries connected with the Lavi allocate $160 million from their resources.

Chief of the Planning Branch Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, who presented the General Staff position, said that "as long as we continue with the Lavi it will be impossible to equip ourselves with next generation aircraft that will enter service in the middle of the 1990's, to preserve aerial superiority."

In the estimation of the General Staff, "closing down the project would enable $5.9 billion to be freed for the Air Force order of battle and the development of projects for the entire IDF."

If the Lavi continues, "over the next 6 years $3.4 billion will be invested without an operational return being received. The first fighter squadron of Lavis will be operational only in 1993."

The financial adviser to the chief of staff, Major General Re'uven (Hershko), disclosed to the Knesset members that, by 2001, $8,648 billion will have to be invested in the Lavi project. This sum is at fixed prices and therefore it is expected that it will increase over the coming years.

The chief of staff explained to the Knesset members that Maj Gen Bin-nun was presenting the position of the entire General Staff, not his personal stand. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Ends Lavi Debate

TA281126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] This afternoon the Cabinet ended its fifth debate on the future of the Lavi project. An IDF representative addressed the Cabinet. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Qatzav says the defense establishment's position is not unequivocal, which makes it difficult for the ministers to form an opinion. He suggests that a suitable ministerial forum be established to consolidate a decision.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that during the discussion Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that under the present circumstances, and if there is no change in the defense budget and the budget for the Lavi, the project cannot continue.

Rabin Seeks U.S. Clarifications

TA281852 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will leave for the United States for talks with Secretaries Weinberger and Shultz before the Cabinet completes its discussion of the Lavi project. Rabin announced this at today's Cabinet meeting. The defense minister wants to receive clarifications from the Americans about the financing of the Lavi project before the Cabinet makes its decision.

At today's Cabinet meeting the IDF and defense establishment people completed the presentation of their positions. Some of them support the project and some oppose it. A tie is also emerging among the Cabinet ministers, and a decision does not appear to be near. [passage omitted]

Interviewed on U.S. Visit

TA290639 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hayim Ravya — live]

[Text] [Ravya] Good morning, Mr Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Ravya] At yesterday's Cabinet session you surprisingly announced that you would be going to the United States even before a decision on the Lavi is reached to examine the positions held by the U.S. secretaries of state and defense. I say surprisingly because to date you have preferred to remain in Israel until a decision on the issue is reached. What made you change your mind? What do you want to hear from them?

[Rabin] I will not detail the matters I plan to clarify in the United States. Justified questions have been raised by several ministers as to the implications of continuing the Lavi development compared to the possibility of an alternative whereby the development and production of the Lavi would be halted. I intend to clarify the U.S. views on this, and to find out about all those issues related to the IDF's requirements and to the activity of the defense industries, primarily the Israel Aircraft Industries.

[Ravya] In other words, you want to hear them offer either their continued support for the project or perhaps financial compensation or financial arrangements in the event that Israel chooses to cancel the project.

[Rabin] Correct. All this will be in an attempt to clarify matters without committing the government to any particular decision.

[Ravya] But not many surprises are expected in the U.S. position; it is already known.

[Rabin] It might be known, but I thought I at least should be more certain about the facts that I present.

[Ravya] Minister Rabin, the ministers who emerge from the Cabinet sessions dealing with the Lavi are complaining about confusion: The director general of the Defense Ministry says one thing; the Air Force commander says another; or the Planning Division says something else entirely. Why could the defense establishment not have formulated a uniform position? Why should these internal differences of opinion be displayed before the ministers?

[Rabin] There are some things over which there is absolutely no dispute whatsoever. No one in the defense establishment and the IDF disputes the fact that within the existing budgetary framework — that is, if the defense budget remains as it is at present, the size of U.S. aid remains as it is now, and money is taken from the U.S. aid for IDF use in Israel — development and production of the Lavi cannot continue. The entire defense establishment is in agreement on this. If we want to continue — not as the General Staff demands, but reasonably advancing the IDF and Israeli industry and technology — the government must add between $200 and $220 million annually to continue the Lavi's development and to prevent harm to the IDF. It should be remembered that the IDF was significantly reduced in the past 3 years such that the Army is smaller and the defense budget was cut.

[Ravya] Correct me if I am mistaken. I still have some difficulty understanding why....

[Rabin, interrupting] Now, legitimate differences of opinion exist. Regarding the priorities, the General Staff, for example, believes for the most part that the Lavi project should not be continued because of the limited means and resources. I, for one do not accept this view; I say that not only should the IDF's requirements be considered, but also those of industry. If the State of Israel wants to develop technology and industry, it cannot be done within the existing budget.

[Ravya] There appears to be a tie in the Cabinet between those who support and those who oppose the Lavi. Do you see any room for a compromise proposal: a smaller plane, a reduced budget, a longer period of time for the project?

[Rabin] The problem regarding the Lavi's development before production starts is that the more the process is prolonged, the more expensive the plane becomes and the longer production will take. It should also be remembered that even within the existing plan, which requires larger funds, it will still take 5 to 6 years before we will be able to see the first combat squadron.

[Ravya] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, thank you very much and good morning.

Shamir: U.S. 'Not Pressuring'

TA291119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Meron Tzur "this afternoon;" place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Tzur] Mr Prime Minister, the Cabinet has already convened twice to discuss the Lavi and still no decision has been reached. How do you view the dispute over the continued development of the Lavi plane prior to a final Cabinet decision?

[Shamir] The main problem is not the number of sessions or the length of the discussions, rather it is the need to make the correct decision. In order to reach the correct decision, clarifications, discussions, and checks are being conducted; and I hope an end to the debate and the correct conclusions will soon be reached.

[Tzur] Mr Prime Minister, how do you regard the differences of opinion in the General Staff and the Air Force on this project, differences which were never revealed in the past but are now?

[Shamir] The problem is a difficult and complex one, and involves many aspects and considerations, both military and non-military, such as economic, technological and others. Therefore it is no wonder that many differences of opinion exist on this matter between all the interested parties. As to whether or not this is the first time this is being revealed, I would regard it as a sign of the times.

[Tzur] Sir, the U.S. Administration is pressuring for a decision to examine the possibility of adopting the F-16 alternative to the Lavi. Will this speed up the decision-making process or will it have a considerable influence on the Israeli Cabinet's decision on the Lavi?

[Shamir] The U.S. Administration is not pressuring us. Naturally it would like to hear the Cabinet decision, but there is certainly no pressure. The decision was and will be solely an Israeli one.

[Tzur] Mr Prime Minister, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is currently holding talks in West Germany on convening an international conference, and we are now hearing that there has been some contact with Soviet representatives in Paris. What do you have to say on the matter?

[Shamir] I cannot address the various rumors, which are very speculative. I think there is nothing new in what we are hearing from Europe.

Rabin Remarks on West Bank Violence 'Mere Talk'

TA261816 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Jun 87 p 1

[Editorial: "When Talk Is Mere Talk"]

[Text] On every occasion in which Yitzhaq Rabin is the speaker, he repeats to his listeners that the IDF will firmly resist those who break the law, be they Arabs or Jews.

The defense minister's talk serves well as talk, but the value of any words, whether spoken by a minister or an ordinary person, is established by converting them into practice and a clear policy: one that determines those things that are forbidden and their subsequent punishment, as well as those things that are allowed and their bounds.

In order to get a clear picture, it must honestly be said that Rabin's remarks about punishing the lawbreakers have not been applied except to the residents of the occupied territories. When the settlers, on the other hand, not only oppose law and order but violate the laws and assault innocent citizens, the value of Rabin's remarks declines; they become a storm that blows over within hours.

When the Israeli authorities arrest an Arab resident of the West Bank or the Gaza Strip on the charge of breaking the law, he is detained for 18 days and might be brought before a military court. In many cases Arab residents are held under administrative detention for months, and in other instances they are placed under house arrest.

On the other hand, when the settlers attack and assault the residents of the refugee camps, and when these settlers open fire or burn trees and wreck roads, or even when they attack military personnel and impose on them whatever they want, a storm "erupts" — or a so-called storm — and the settlers return to their homes amid the applause of supporters and followers.

We wish to believe the defense minister when he talks about the violators of law and order. We wish, but the reality of what actually takes place leaves us with only a wish, nothing more. And talk, when it is only talk, is no more than smoke in the air, which these days is full of Israeli talk.

Two Hurt in Bomb Explosion on Haifa Beach

TA270825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] A bomb exploded on the Karmel beach in Haifa about an hour ago. A woman and a child were injured. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the explosion occurred at 0940 and that the casualty is Hadasa Yaniv, a Haifa resident, who was on this beach with her entire family. An ambulance transferred her to Rambam Hospital. Thousands of people were quickly evacuated from the beach. The police are searching it and making arrests. The public is asked not to come to this beach for the time being.

'Force 17' Claims Responsibility

NC271452 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] In a telephone conversation with a foreign news agency in Beirut, an unidentified caller claiming to speak on behalf of Force 17 said his organization was responsible for the explosion which occurred in Haifa today. The caller said the explosion had caused many injuries among Israelis there. Israeli reports have mentioned that only two persons were wounded in the explosion.

Fatah Group Claims Bomb

NC271920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] The General Command of the Forces of Fatah — The Uprising has claimed responsibility for the explosion which took place on the Al-Raml beach near the city of Haifa in occupied Palestine.

Arab Killed, 5 Others Injured in Land Dispute

TA281119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] An Arab was killed and four others injured in a shooting incident in Al-'Ubaydiyat, east of Bethlehem. In addition, a border policeman sustained leg injuries. Our correspondent Arye Gus says that initial reports claim the incident occurred between Jewish land surveyors and residents of the village, beginning with sharp verbal exchanges and ending with the firing of shots that caused the six casualties.

Our correspondent points out that much aggitation exists in the area over land expropriation.

Investigation Gives Details

TA281737 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1600 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] A serious shooting incident took place today at Ramat Qidron in the Bethlehem district: A resident of the Al-'Ubaydiyat village was killed and six were injured during a shooting that took place against the background of a land dispute. A border policeman was slightly wounded in the leg. An initial investigation indicates it was the Civilian Administration workers and the border policemen who opened fire. Colonel Dov, commander of the Judaea and Samaria region, told our correspondent Ilan Ben-Dor that fire was opened out of self-defense and could not be avoided.

[Begin Dov recording] At a certain point a large number of residents of this village attacked one of the Arabs involved in the sale of land in the area. Stoning and beating took place, and eventually fire was opened in self-defense. According to an initial investigation we carried out, some of the Civilian Administration employees apparently opened fire. In addition, at least two border policemen fired into the air. [end recording]

King Husayn Leaves on Official Visit to Turkey

JN261229 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman at noon today for Ankara on an official visit to Turkey for several days at the invitation of Turkish President Kenan Evren. During this visit, which is within the context of the fraternal relations between Jordan and Turkey, His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks to enhance these relations and mutual cooperation between the two friendly countries. There will also be an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual concern.

His majesty is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn Husayn was sworn in before His Majesty King Husayn in the presence of the Cabinet as regent during the king's absence abroad.

Their majesties were seen off at the airport by His Highness 'Abdallah ibn Husayn and His Highness Prince Talal ibn Muhammad, as well as the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the ministers, the chief of the royal household, the secretary general of the royal court, a number of civilian and military officials, and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

AL-DUSTUR Comments on Visit

JN270830 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
27 Jun 87 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Jordan and Turkey — Strong Ties and Important Role"]

[Text] Within the framework of broad relations of fraternity and friendship between Jordan and Turkey, His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Ankara yesterday on an official visit at the invitation of His Excellency Turkish President Kenan Evren to hold talks on reinforcing joint bilateral cooperation and to hold consultations on a number of issues concerning Jordan and Turkey.

King Husayn's visit is a continuation of the persistent diplomatic efforts which have been exerted and which are still being exerted by Jordan in a number of European capitals to mobilize the broadest international support for holding an international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East and to make this support effective, for the conference has become the only practical option to achieve a just, overall, and permanent peace in the region.

Undoubtedly Turkey, which supports an international conference to achieve peace and which enjoys historical relations with and has broad interests in the Arab world, can play a role on many levels to encourage the peace efforts in the Middle East. This great Islamic country which is linked with Europe through neighborliness and political interests is qualified by its position on the map of international relations to play a vital role in the political theater of the Middle East.

The friendly Republic of Turkey can also play a similar vital role on the level of the Gulf war. Turkey is a neighbor of both warring countries, linked with them by broad trade relations. Ithas joint interests, concerns, and challenges with both Iraq and Iran.

Hence, while hoping that King Husayn's ongoing visit to Turkey will result in reinforcing cooperation between the two friendly countries which have important roles regarding the entrenchment of regional peace, we also hope that talks and consultations between the two political leaderships will contribute not only toward making Turkey continue its effective efforts on the level of the Middle East crisis, but also on the level of the Iraq-Iran war whose dangers are threatening Arabs, Muslims, and the entire world.

Shaykh al-Miqdad Reportedly Kidnappers' Leader
NC270614 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0528 xGMT 27 Jun 87

[Excerpt] While 'Ali 'Usayran remains silent over the issue of his abduction, our information indicates that the kidnappers of the American Charles Glass are Lebanese members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, under the direct command of Shaykh Muhammad al-Miqdad. According to this information, Dastmalchiyan, the Iranian ambassador in Beirut, was repeatedly in contact with Shaykh al-Miquad prior to the release of 'Ali 'Usayran and his driver.

The same reports add that intensive efforts are underway to ensure the release of Glass. Shaykh al-Miqdad, however, declines to discuss the matter, saying he was carrying out orders and, consequently, is no longer involved in the affair. [passage omitted]

Glass Said in Southern Suburb
NC271611 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1550 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] The Central News Agency has cited informed security sources as saying masked armed groups, led by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi al-Miqdad, are still holding Glass in the strongly fortified southernsuburb area [of Beirut].

According to the same sources, Hizballah groups are avoiding crossing Syrian roadblocks in the southern suburb because the personnel manning the posts have been furnished with lists bearing names of the Al-Miqdad family members.

Syrians Continue Efforts to Release Glass

Reinforce Al-Biqa' Posts
NC281707 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] According to an AFP dispatch, the Syrian forces have sent reinforcements to Al-Biqa' over the past 24 hours. The agency estimates the number of Syrian forces in the area at 15,000 troops. The Syrians constructed ramparts around one of their encampments near the positions of the Iranian Revolution Guards. In addition, Syria checkpoints have confiscated arms permits.

According to the same agency, a group of the special Syrian forces deployed in Mashgharah in western Al-Biqa', 10 km north of the border strip. It should be recalled that Hizballah gunmen and Iranian Revolution Guards are stationed south of Mashgharah.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in Al-Biqa' has reported that the Syrian forces have been deployed as follows: Syrian infantry troops in Niha near Ba'labakk; radar units between Al-Murayjat and Dahr al-Baydar; SAM missile batteries near 'Ayn al-Sahah; Tallat radar in Falugha; and troop reinforcements on the road to Ba'labakk.

In another development, we have learned that some 4,000 Syrians participated in training exercises in Miryatah in the north 2 days ago.

Closely Monitoring 'Extremists'
NC291442 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] AFP reported this afternoon that the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' have placed pro-Iranian Muslim extremist groups under close surveillance. The Syrian measures include cancelling permits held by members of these groups to carry arms, and closely searching Hizballah vehicles.

AFP recalled the report it carried yesterday afternoon regarding the deployment of a Syrian force in Ba'labakk within the past 72 hours. This deployment was carried out to reinforce the Syrian forces stationed in the area with a view to strengthening control over Hizballah members and other Muslim extremist organizations. The report also noted the deployment of a Syrian special units force in Mashgharah, western Al-Biqa', last weekend. It should be noted that Hizballah members and Iranian Revolution Guards are positioned south of Mashgharah, some 10 km north of the border strip area.

AFP noted that despite these strict measures, Hizballah leaders have not yet issued any instructions to their members that would allow them to confront the Syrians.

Meanwhile, circles in the Al-Biqa' have noticed that Hizballah official Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has not been seen for some time now. The circles did not rule out the possibility that Al-Tufayli could be under house arrest in a Lebanese area under Syrian occupation or that he could be held in Syria.

Suburb 'Almost Blockaded'
JN291112 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] According to reports from Beirut citing Lebanese Muslim Shi'ite sources, the Syrian forces have almost blockaded Beirut's southern suburb, and it appears that Syrian checkpoints today prevented suspect elements from leaving the southern suburb.

AL-KHALIJ on Glass Abduction, Syria-Iran Tension
JN281409 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
26 Jun 87 pp 1, 17

[Text] Beirut, Damascus — Informed Lebanese sources told *Al-Khalij* that kidnapped U.S. journalist Charles Glass is being detained in the "Revolution Guards" barracks in the Madi quarter in the southern suburb of Beirut. The sources said the barracks belong to the pro-Iran hardline Shi'ite groups. They added they had information that the U.S. journalist will not be released before the conclusion of Hamadah's trial in West Germany.

Lebanese sources close to Syrian officials in Damascus said President Hafiz al-Asad is very angry at the abduction of Glass and that Syria is considering decisive action but is studying the anticipated reprercussions of such an action on its relations with Iran. The most salient feature of this Syrian indignation was President al-Asad's refusal to receive a ranking Iranian delegation whose arrival in Damascus was not announced. Al-Asad left for Latakia in northwestern Syria yesterday. Al-Asad's refusal to receive the Iranian delegation made the delegation refuse to use the VIP lounge at Damascus International Airport during their departure yesterday and insisted on using the ordinary passengers lounge.

Informed circles considered Syria's request for the postponement of Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi's visit to Damascus another indication of tense relations between the two countries. They did not expect this visit to take place before the release of the U.S. hostage, especially since Iran's influence on the issue of hostages was clear in the exchange of 'Ali 'Usayran and his driver with Hashim Minqarah, who was detained in Syria. Iran supervised the whole operation and the Iranian Revolution Guards in Al-Biqa' received Minquarah before releasing 'Usayran and his driver.

The results of "tension" between Iran and Syria will become clear in the next few hours through the fate of the U.S. hostage. Syrian sources expect his release today because Iran cannot dispense with its relations with Damascus.

DER SPIEGEL Interviews Fadlallah on Hostages

DW290930 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
29 Jun 87 p 116

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizballah, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] *Spiegel*: Shaykh Fadlallah, how are the two German hostages, Cordes and Schmidt, who more than 5 months ago were kidnapped in Beirut by Shi'ite fighters of the Hizballah party? Are they still in Lebanon, or were they moved?

Fadlallah: I assume that they are still in Lebanon.

Spiegel: Are their lives at risk?

Fadlallah: I discussed the matter with the German ambassador in Beirut on several occasions, and I promised to do my best to obtain the hostages' release. I have the feeling the case of the two Germans can be settled more quickly than other cases of this type.

Spiegel: What did you recommend to the Federal Government? What should it do with imprisoned Muhammad 'Ali Hammadah?

Fadlallah: One thing is clear: The fact that Hamadah will not be extradited but will stay in the Federal Republic makes things easier. His extradition to the United States would have complicated the situation unnecessarily.

Spiegel: What do you think about the kidnappers' accusation that their hostages worked as U.S. agents?

Fadlallah: In my view that accusation is not serious.

Spiegel: So are you expecting their release soon?

Fadlallah: They could be released more quickly than other kidnapped hostages.

Spiegel: U.S. witnesses have confirmed that Hamadah was one of the hijackers of a TWA passenger plane to Beirut in 1985. Are they right?

Fadlallah: I do not belong to the circle of persons who could be asked such a question.

Spiegel: You are the spiritual leader of Hizballah, and that organization is accountable for most kidnappings in Lebanon. You cannot just dodge that responsibility.

Fadlallah: After U.S. journalist Charles Glass was kidnapped, I condemned most sharply, in my last Friday sermon in the mosque, all kidnappings of journalists, university professors, diplomats, physicians, and engineers — in other words, people who constitute no danger to the country's security and order.

Spiegel: Then why do you not get your followers to release the hostages immediately?

Fadlallah: It has long ceased to be a purely Lebanese matter; it has developed into an affair of international dimensions. I have done my best and I am continuing efforts for the hostages' relase. However, whenever I deal with it I face closed doors. Many countries are feathering their nests here, not only Iran, but also the United States. Let us take France. There the kidnappings were used to carry out a domestic political conflict between the parties.

Spiegel: Are you not trying to trivialize the Hizballah acts of violence as a sort of fight for survival against foreign powers?

Fadlallah: But the problem of violence should not be seen separately. Let me remind you that France, the land of fairness and fraternity, abducted Ahmad Ben Bella in 1956, the leader of the Algerian Liberation Front, in an act of air piracy. Let me remind you that French ultrarightists kidnapped and killed the North African leader, Al-Mahdi Ben Barka. The United States, the alleged defender of freedom in the world, hijacked an Egyptian passenger plane after the "Achile Lauro" affair. Israel also kidnapped a German at one time.

Spiegel: In that case, terrorists and war criminals like Eichmann were to be brought before a court. No one who did not have anything to do with it was kidnapped.

Fadlallah: Anyway, the weapon of abduction has become a political instrument. Anyone using it and continuing to use it acts in the conviction that kidnapping and hijacking are legitimate instruments to advance political objectives. The countries that react with outrage are the best teachers in that respect, are they not? Yet, I insist that innocent people must not be punished for their governments' crimes and terrible policy. The Koran says it clearly: "No one can be held responsible for his neighbor's crime."

Spiegel: A wise proverb, yet hostages are taken in the name of Islam.

Fadlallah: There are situations where some Muslims believe they have a right to commit such acts. The Jews ousted an entire people from their native Palestine. Was that not an act of violence and terror? That has nothing to do with Islam.

Spiegel: The demand for Jihad — holy war — provokes violence and terror.

Fadlallah: Jihad is one of the methods to fight those who use force against us and restrict our freedom, as was done in Palestine. The Palestinians there have to find a way every day to stop the Jews' aggression and restore their own freedom. There is no difference at all between Jihad in Islam and the right of self-defense, which is recognized by the international community. Islam encourages no one to kill or abduct people. However, when my life is in danger I do not ask the aggressor what method of resistance he would prefer.

Fadlallah Warns France

LD271406 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Beirut, June 27, IRNA — Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in his Friday prayers sermon at Imam Reza (A.S.) mosque in southern Beirut, discoursed on the fears the world oppressors have for the world liberating Islamic movement.

Addressing worshippers he said that currently the Islamic ummah in various parts of the world is facing massive threats from oppressors who are vainly trying to contain the growing Islamic movement.

One such measure, he continued, is the closing down of the 'Bibliotheque Ahl al-Bayt' (Ahl al-Bayt Library) in Paris by the French Government which falsely accused the prestigious Islamic library of being involved in political activities. It is obvious the Mitterrand government fears the imminent spread of Islamic principles and ideology, he added.

The sole reason behind the French Government's move, he continued, was that the centre had attracted many French and Africans towards Islam.

Another similar act of the French Government is its harassment of Muslims travelling to and from France. Upon arrival in France the Muslims are insulted at the airport and in some cases even tortured, he added.

'Allamah Fadlallah warned the French Government against continuing such mischiefs and said that these moves contradicted France's claim of supporting freedom.

Further in his sermon he referred to efforts of world oppressors to stop the anti-Zionist struggle of Muslims. Those who once claimed to be supporters of the Palestinian cause have now given in to pressure of the oppressors and potray anti-Zionist struggle as a terrorist act, he pointed out.

Despite all these plots the Islamic movement will continue its large-scale struggle against the Zionist regime and will not submit to enemy propaganda. This is because, he stressed, experience has shown that fate of the occupied Islamic territories will not be decided at negotiation tables but on the battlefields.

Military Personnel 'Detained' in Karami Case

NC281416 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] In a reply cable to Deputy Raymond Iddih, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi has agreed it would be difficult for a political judicial investigation to uncover the perpetrator of a political assassination and the instigating party. However, he notes that in the case of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's assassination, the explosive charge was placed on the helicopter at a known military base. No more than 15 military personnel at this base are responsible for helicopter security, the interior minister discloses in his cable, and a statement issued by the Army's Military Council affirms they have been in detention since the incident. Is it impossible to find out who among them placed the explosive charge if the responsible authorities place all their resources and information at the judiciary's disposal? This is what should be done, especially because one of the goals of the operation is to implicate the Lebanese Army and to make it the object of suspicion and accusation.

In his cable to Deputy Iddih, Minister al-Rasi wonders whether the Army Command will remain idle in view of the repeated attacks on that institution.

Al-Jumayyil Cited on 'Independence' Government

NC281243 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Political sources expect the various parties to adopt a stand on the Lebanese Forces' call for the establishment of an independence government in the eastern area during the coming week. The same sources said the Maronite patriarchate will send an envoy to Damascus beforehand to consult with the Syrian leaders on the coming phase.

In today's issue, the newspaper *Al-Shams* quotes President Amin al-Jumayyil as having said, in response to a number of foreign diplomats who asked him about his views on this matter, that he does not pay any attention to the Lebanese Forces' demand. He refuses to have anything to do with such ideas, preferring the formation of a government that enjoys legitimate status and embraces all trends and Lebanese communities, in order to rescue the country and deal with the economic situation.

President al-Jumayyil is also quoted as having said every proposal or idea that runs counter to the unity of Lebanon or contributes to its fragmentation is doomed to fail, because Lebanese political and popular leaders have been rejecting every partitionist trend for 13 years now.

President al-Jumayyil asked the foreign diplomats to inform their governments that he opposes any government that does not stem from the Chamber of Deputies, under current constitutional norms and laws.

Al-Shams says President al-Jumayyil has asked some Christian leaders, particularly Patriarch Sfayr, to clearly define their views on the Lebanese Forces' demand and on support for legitimacy and the regime.

Birri Criticizes Proposal

NC291403 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has described the proposal for establishing a government of independence as a call for setting up a government of independence from Lebanon. In a statement he made this afternoon, Birri said the goal behind the assassination of Prime Minister Karami was to create a vacuum that would justify the formation of such a government. However, the position adopted by the nationalist and Islamic forces, which led to the appointment of Salim al-Huss as acting prime minister, has made them [Lebanese Forces] lose this chance and exposed their plan for the Cypriotization of Lebanon.

Minister Birri emphasized the need for unity among the nationalist forces and the restoration of the spirit of 1983.

Regarding the developments in the judicial investigation into Prime Minister Rashid Karami's assassination, Minister Birri said: The judicial authority follows certain rules and procedures, and one cannot ask it to implement measures which fall under the political authority's domain. Even if the Army and the president of the Republic insist upon implicating themselves in the crime by not taking measures against the responsible persons, the judicial authority cannot be asked to exceed the legal bounds, especially because the military investigation has proved that the helicopter was booby-trapped at Adma military base.

Syria Reportedly Assails Plan

JN280803 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces' plan to establish a government of independence in Lebanon is not enjoying the support of all groups on the Christian side. Damascus has vehemently assailed the plan's protagonists and accused them of being agents of Israel. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Front, which has the same roots as the Lebanese Forces, has supported the idea and noted that if it should be formed such a government will not be seccessionist or an advocate of partition and will include members representing the various Lebanese parties.

The grouping of Maronite deputies in the National Assembly, which is independent of the Lebanese Front and the Lebanese Forces, has rejected the plan. Albert Mukhaybir, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, also rejected the plan and went to Bkirki and expressed his fears regarding the plan to the Maronite patriarch. The Maronite patriarch merely said Bkirki supports all plans that enjoy legitimate support, that is a parliamentary majority. [passage omitted]0

Hizballah has also assailed Syria, but for a different reason. Syrian radio had made clear threats to the kidnappers of the hostages in Lebanon and called them criminals who harm the resistance against Israel.

The magazine *Al-'Ahd*, which is more or less the mouthpiece of Hizballah, has assailed the Syrian radio commentator saying: Those who raise empty slogans do not know the meaning of resistance to the Israeli occuaption. *Al-'Ahd* accused Damascus of exaggerated concern for the kidnapped U.S. journalist Glass in order to preoccupy public opinion with the Glass case and suppress the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Junblatt Speech Denounces 'Treacherous' President

NC271917 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Speech by Walid Junblatt, leader of the PSP and minister of public works, in Qibbay' at a ceremony commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Qibbay'-al-Qurayyah battle — recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, honorable gathering: I would have wished to see an automobile carrying people from the honorable village of Al-Mutayn here, but, regrettably, I see none. However, I tell the people of Al-Mutayn: Bear in mind that I shall reconstruct your demolished residences with stones taken from Bikfayya. [applause]

Comrades, I would also have wished to see some of the bourgeoisie from Al-Matn, Al-Shuf, Al-Gharbiyah, and other areas, who only attend certain occasions but who run from duty in crucial times. However, I tell them that the guillotine that has begun to cut off heads will behead them. [applause]

From now on, I will not accept a situation in which the poor of 'Alayh, 'Aytat, Qubayy', and Al-Qurayyah die while the rich remain in their palaces. [passage indistinct]

From Qubbay', from the Arab and steadfast Upper al-Matn, which repulsed the first barbarian onslaught and which later opened the Damascus Road to Beirut and to the south, we salute bereaved, sad, wounded, and Arab Tripoli. We tell Tripoli that even if there were only one bullet left in our rifles, we would use it to avenge Rashid Karami and to kill Amin al-Jumayyil. [applause] If the United States and Israel had planned Rashid Karami's assassination, you must not forget that Amin al-Jumayyil and his intelligence service and Army implemented it.

O Munif 'Uwaydat or Ghamrah, the issue is not a technical, but a political one. Speak the truth or do not leave your homes. [applause]

O people of Al-Dikwanah, Tall al-Za'tar, Al-Maslakh, and Al-Karantinah, do not forget Amin al-Jumayyil. O people of Salima, Arsun, 'Bayh, Kafr Matta, and Al-Burjayn, do not forget Amin al-Jumayyil. O people of the camps in Sabra and Shatila, whether Lebanese or Palestinian, do not forget Amin al-Jumayyil. O Christians of Al-Shuf, Iqlim al-Kharrub, and east of Sidon, in whose name millions of dollars of aid has come, where are you? Rather, have you asked why you have been displaced? Have you asked why you are now dying of hunger and are living in humiliating conditions in cellars, monasteries, and under towers? Ask Amin al-Jumayyil. [passage omitted]

O people of Lebanon. Do not forget the shah of B'abda, the shah of Bikfayya.

O Rashid Karami. They left you for hours, during which no one covered your body, which had been torn apart by criminal hands. However, these hands could not detract from your pride and steadfastness. Your face remained bright and you remained steadfast saying: Do not forget Amin al-Jumayyil. Why did they kill you now, O effendi? Ask the cursed middleman and broker between B'abda and the so-called Islamic Grouping which I would rather call the (?Protestant) not Islamic Grouping. Ask Muhammad Shuqayr, this cursed middleman, about the plans for new ministries; ask him about the meetings in Al-Ashrafiyah. Meanwhile, do not forget Amin al-Jumayyil. [passage omitted]

To every nationalist in Lebanon, I say Lebanon's salvation can be achieved by liberating it from the Phalangists and their forces; from the false legitimacy and its army; and from the sick, cunning, cowardly, and treacherous man — the Bokassa of B'abda and Somoza of Bikfayya, Amin al-Jumayyil.

Junblatt Turns over Security Officials to Syrians

NC281014 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] PSP sources in West Beirut have told Voice of Lebanon that during the past 24 hours, Minister Walid Junblatt turned the security chief responsible for guarding Junblatt's house in Al-Musaytibah [in West Beirut] and one this official's aides over to the Syrian military command in the city. This took place at Syria's request after PSP official Abu Haytham, who is currently detained in Damascus, confessed that the two were involved in recent bombings in West Beirut. The PSP sources also reported that PSP officials in Iqlim al-Kharrub are dissatisfied with Junblatt's recent reorganization of the party. It has been learned that PSP leaders there informed Junblatt in writing, at a recent special meeting with him, of their absolute rejection of the principles put forward as a basis for reconciliation with the Amal Movement, through the Front for Unification and Liberation.

Al-Huss Confers With Soviet Ambassador

NC271119 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Vasiliy Kolotusha and Charge d'Affairs Yuriy Suslikov at his residence today. During the meeting, local and regional developments were discussed. In response to a question, Ambassador Kolotusha said: The situation in Lebanon is tricky, requiring further contacts, analysis, and reflection. He added: I have not formed a comprehensive assessment of the situation yet.

'Hajj' Congress Opens in Beirut; Fadlallah Present

LD281826 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Beirut, June 28, IRNA — The second congress on Hajj titled 'Hajj and Issues of Muslims' was inaugurated here Sunday. Prominent Lebanese Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayin Fadlallah, vice president of the Supreme Islamic Council of the Shi'ite community of Lebanon, Shaykh Mohammad Mahdi Shams al-Din as well as a group of Lebanese Muslim figures are participating in the meet.

At the inaugural ceremony, representative of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Na'mani expressed hope that the congress could play an effective role in solving Muslims' problems.

Also speaking at the three-day congress the Islamic Republic's cultural adviser in Beirut Mohsen Amin [name as received] spoke on the composition of Lebanon's Islamic scene, and wished the participants would do their best to make the congress a success.

Group Claims Attack on Syrians in West Beirut

NC280557 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] In an anonymous telephone call to Radio Free Lebanon, an organization calling itself the Islamic Army [Al-Jaysh al-Islami] has claimed responsibility for firing a rocket and machineguns at a joint Syrian-internal security forces center in the Quraytim area of West Beirut last night.

PDPA Central Committee Politburo Meets 25 Jun

LD271615 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Kabul, 25 Jun (*Bakhtar*) — A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held today. Those attending assessed the extra measures needed to facilitate the return of refugees to the country. The Politburo pointed out that after the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, the party and the revolutionary government have taken broad steps to restore peace throughout the country, to implement the national reconciliation policy, and to provide the necessary facilities for our returning compatriots.

The recent decrees of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium concerning the returnees -- granting 6-month deferment from military service; restitution of foreign currency, and bank and company shares; exemption from paying tax on land, shops, private businesses, and companies, or rent for government shops and fines concerning previous legal securities; extending material assistance; and the release of 6,000 prisoners from jail -- are among the major steps which have resulted in 60,000 of our compatriot refugees returning to the country.

In assessing the creation of guest houses in the border provinces for receiving the returnees and the activities of the Central Department for Returnees carried out with the cooperation of party and government bodies, the Politburo pointed out that there are still defects and shortcomings in the work of the Central Department for Returnees, as well as in other party and government bodies and social organizations, that should be removed as soon as possible.

The Politburo approved the DRA Council of Ministers proposal concerning the improvement of living conditions for workers, employees, and personnel of the civil services, as well as for the disabled, survivors of the martyrs on the path of revolution, and personnel of social organizations, by supplying them with essential foodstuff commodities. The proposal also dealt with the prevention of price rises.

The Politburo endorsed the distribution of two items requiring coupons — flour or wheat and cooking oil — free of charge to coupon holders and a 50 percent increase in the value of luncheon vouchers for workers, employees, and personnel of the civil service to begin 23 July 1987.

It should be mentioned that state financial assistance for the free distribution of the two items requiring coupons amounts to 1,560 afghanis to married coupon holders and 780 afghanis to single coupon holders per month.

The total value of state assistance, including increases for luncheon vouchers, is approximately 6 billion afghanis per year. This action reflects the party and government's attention and care to increasing incomes and to providing for the toilers.

The Politburo approved a decision to upgrade the department in charge of returnees' affairs to the State Committee for the Return of Refugees and commissioned the respective bodies to take extra measures to improve the affairs of returning refugees.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo approved a provision on the convocation of peace jirgahs in order to further assist the practical implementation of the national reconcilation policy and to strengthen work concerning the restoration of nationwide peace.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also considered the circumstances pertaining to the distribution of Soviet aid in the Kabul and Bamian Provinces and pointed out that the party and government leaderships in these provinces have not clearly explained to the people the importance of this aid from the friendly Soviet Union. By their irregular organization they have not only prepared the ground for some personnel to abuse this assistance, but have also weakened its effectiveness.

The Executive Committee of the People's Representatives in Kabul Province has not observed the demands and instructions of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Council of Ministers with regard to the method of distributing basic materials. Sometimes these goods have been used in unnecessary ways. Specific norms have not been observed in determining deserving persons and little attention has been given to the supply and just distribution of this aid.

In Bamian Province, the distribution of Soviet aid, which was in the form of cash, has not proceeded according to instructions and party and government officials in this province have shown a lack of discipline. This manner of distribution has had a negative effect on the process of political and social work under the circumstances of national reconciliation and has also weakened the effectiveness of this free aid.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo has recommended punitive measures against some officials in charge of the distribution of free aid and has commissioned the respective bodies to embark on decisive measures to end the present shortcomings.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also heard a report by Mir Saheb Karwal, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, on the participation of a PDPA delegation in the work of the 12th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece. Its participation was assessed as positive.

The Politburo also considered a number of domestic and international issues.

Sharq Appointed Minister of Returnees Affairs

LD271844 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] At the proposal of the Council of Ministers and with the approval of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, the esteemed Dr Mohammad Hasan Sharq has been appointed vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and minister of returnees' affairs.

Khalil Jalal has been appointed deputy minister of the Ministry of Returnees' Affairs.

Nur Ahmad Nur Closes Journalists' Conference

LD290840 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Kabul, June 25, *Bakhtar* — Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC, in his concluding speech at the international conference of journalists of non-aligned countries said, for three days delegates from 40 countries and a number of prestigious international organisations have participated in the work of this conference.

Today we are assessing the results of the works of this gathering. We discussed the most important questions of our present and future in this hall not only in general way but in particular as well. Both in our reviews and assessments of various problems we demonstrated foresight and in some cases new kinds of ideas which are important for the solution of vital problems of humanity and protection of life on our beautiful planet, have been presented.

The most important fact is that we in unison stated that nuclear war cannot be an alternative to peace. Therefore, it is important that the progressive journalists in close cooperation with each other and by explaining this important fact, should overcome the differences of opinion and short-lived interests.

We would like to thank each one of you for your support for the policy of national reconciliation. What our state and our party have done during this period and the results we have scored, as you all know, I am sure it makes you convinced that the policy of national reconciliation is an answer to the spirit of the teachings of the holy Quran and is one of the most important question for the prosperity of every Afghan and the realisation of peace in our ancestral land which is suffering from war and bloodshed.

It is very pleasing for us that you not only considered the national reconciliation as a key for the solution of problems in our country but in all over Asia.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Operations in Herat

BK270811 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have attacked nine military posts of the Kabul regime in the west of Herat Province, killing all the military personnel deployed there. They also destroyed these posts along with arms and ammunition. According to other reports, the mujahidin also attacked a military convoy on Islam Qila highway killing 15 Soviet-Kabul troops and destroying several military vehicles.

7 Border Guards Killed by Indian Border Troops

BK261724 Hong Kong AFP in English
1040 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Dhaka, June 26 (AFP) — Indian Border Security men have shot and killed seven Bangladeshi Frontier Guards and injured two others, it was officially announced here Friday. The Indians opened fire on the Bangladeshi guards as they were travelling in two speedboats on a canal near the border, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Indian High Commissioner I.S. Chadha was summoned to the Foreign Ministry here Friday morning to receive a strong protest at the "senseless killing" of the seven "innocent" Bangladesh Rifles men, the spokesman added. The incident happened noon Thursday in the Barkal sub-district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, bordering India's Mizoram Union Territory, 230 kilometers (145 miles) from Dhaka, the spokesman said.

On June 1, at least 11 Bangladeshi civilians were killed in a border village by armed men said by Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury to be wearing Indian Border Security Force uniforms. A strong protest was lodged with Mr. Chadha over that incident, too.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts have also been plagued by tribal insurgency. Three days ago, Shanti Bahini rebels fighting for 15 years for autonomy and the removal of Bengali Moslem settlers from the plains, attacked a police patrol in a border village, killing three policemen, police said.

Foreign Minister Informs Parliament

BK271624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Excerpt] The foreign minister made a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this afternoon on the Rangamati incident on Thursday [25 June] in which seven BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] personnel were killed and some others injured by Indian Border Security Forces [BSF]. Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said the government immediately launched a strong protest with India against this senseless, unprovocative [as heard], barbaric and cowardly act. The Indian Government has been asked to take effective steps to stop the recurrence of such acts by BSF personnel.

The foreign minister recalled that during his recent visit to New Delhi he had talks with the Indian prime minister and the foreign minister and discussed with them the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The Indian leaders expressed their willingness to extend all cooperation and do everything possible to maintain good-neighborly relations with Bangladesh. In view of these meetings, such an incident could only be described as most regrettable. Mr Chowdhury said our people who made supreme sacrifices for independence will resist any heinous design against the nation's sovereignty, honor, and integrity. They will never tolerate any foreign aggression against their motherland. The house prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Earlier, in the morning session, the leader of the house, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, also spoke of the steps taken by the government regarding the incident. He underlined the need for finding out the permanent answer to such problems through diplomatic channels. The opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, drew attention of the house to this issue and suggested the formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate the Rangamati incident. [passage omitted]

Indian Mission Attacked

BK271608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] The office of the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka was attacked this afternoon by a crowd of about 30 people. They came in a procession shouting anti-Indian slogans and entered the premises of the High Commission office after breaking open the gate. They threw stones on the building and broke some windowpanes. Police guarding the building did not prevent them from entering the office premises.

The Indian high commissioner, Mr J.S. Chadha, lodged a strong protest with the Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr Nazrul Islam, against the attack. He also sought protection for the High Commission and demanded action against the culprits.

The high commissioner told our Dhaka correspondent Prabhakar Mishra that the Bangladesh foreign secretary has expressed regret over the incident. Additional police personnel have been deployed to guard the mission.

Meanwhile, India has denied the Bangladesh charge regarding an alleged attack by BSF [Border Security Forces] personnel on a village on the Chittagong and Tripura border on the 1st of this month. The Indian high commissioner today sent a note to the Bangladesh foreign secretary denying the allegation.

State Minister Bablu Improving After Heart Surgery

TA271138 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1000 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] It has been reported that the health of Misbahuddin Ahmed Bablu, Bangladesh State Minister for Industries, who underwent a bypass operation at Kosuyolu Hospital in Istanbul yesterday, is improving. According to information received by our correspondent from hospital officials, the visiting minister underwent a 3-hour operation yesterday and is currently in intensive care. The Bangladesh industries minister will be released from intensive care on Monday, 29 June, and will leave the hospital in 10 days. He was hospitalized last night following a heart attack scare in Istanbul, where he is attending the Islamic Conference Organization's industrial cooperation meeting on third ministerial consultation.

Ribeiro Says Police Did Not Enter Golden Temple

BK261706 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] The Punjab police chief, Mr Ribeiro, has said the Gurjeet Singh faction of the All India Sikh Students Federation failed to hold its convention in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar today in view of the preventive measures taken by police and paramilitary forces. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh, he said a large number of devotees from different parts of the state visited the Golden Temple today and had a dip in the holy tank on the occasion of Amavasya [the last day of dark fortnight].

Mr Ribeiro reiterated that police or paramilitary forces did not enter the Golden Temple or its parikarma [area around the sanctum sanctorum] either today or yesterday. In reply to a question, he said the police will not enter any holy place on any flimsy information. Mr Ribeiro said strict vigil over the situation in the city will continue.

Governor Sees 'Considerable Improvement' in Punjab

BK290330 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr S. S. Ray, has said that there has been considerable improvement in the law and order situation in the state after the imposition of president's rule. Pointing out that there is a definite check on the terrorists' killings in the state, he said people of all communities are offering resistance to the terrorists now.

Talking to newsmen in Amritsar yesterday, he reiterated his government's resolve to thwart the designs of antinational elements.

Meanwhile, the Ludhiana unit of the CPI [Communist Party of India] has begun a mass contact program against terrorism. Hundreds of its party workers moved into the villages for carrying out the campaign.

The Punjab unit of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has called for a fresh approach to the Punjab problem. At a meeting of the state executive in Ludhiana yesterday, it welcomed the steps taken by the state government to curb antinational activities.

1 Killed as Police Open Fire on Delhi Mob 27 Jun

BK280318 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] One person was killed when police opened fire to control an unruly mob in Delhi cantonment area yesterday. According to police, over 30 persons including DDA [Delhi Development Authority] officials and policemen were injured when a crowd of over 6,000 protesting against the demolition of an unauthorized construction resorted to brickbatting.

Police had to burst 36 tear gas shells to control the mob. It also fired seven rounds in which one person was killed.

Further Reportage on Situation in West Bengal

Gandhi Meets With Chief Minister

BK261650 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] There have been hectic consultations in New Delhi to work out a solution to the law and order problem and other issues of the Darjeeling hill areas. While the prime minister had a meeting with the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, the home minister held separate discussions with the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader, Mr Subhash Ghisingh, and Mr Basu. At these meetings it was agreed that Mr Ghisingh would bring a delegation of his active members to the capital in the 3d week of next month. Mr Buta Singh appealed to Mr Ghisingh to call off the present bundh [strike] and give up the agitational approach. Instead grounds should be prepared for a democratic solution of the issues involved. However, it was made clear to Mr Ghisingh that unless there is peace in the area and violence is given up completely, no progress can be made in resolving the issues.

At the meeting between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Basu, Mr Buta Singh was also present. Problems of the Darjeeling hill areas, including the situation arising out of the current bundh, organized by the GNLF. [sentence as heard]

Later addressing a news conference, Mr Jyoti Basu said he is for a peaceful political solution of the Gurkhaland issue. He said that is why the state is patient in spite of the bundh turning violent. The state administration is prepared for all eventualities if the situation worsens. He said both the Center and the West Bengal Government agree that short of Gurkhaland and the division of the state, any other matter can be discussed with the GNLF.

Refuting Mr Ghisingh's criticism about the use of force by the state government, Mr Basu said police took action only to save the people and protect property. He said about a dozen people have been arrested under the Antiterrorist Act so far.

There have been reports of more violence in the Darjeeling hill areas on the 7th day of the GNLF sponsored 13 day bundh. GNLF activists burned down a farm house, a telephone exchange, and an irrigation office in Kurseong, and attacked a police camp at (Rangfu) in Kalimpong. Police opened fire when miscreants hurled bombs and grenades on the police camp.

A powerful bomb went off in Kurseong market this morning in which two house were badly damaged. One of these belongs to All India Radio Kurseong correspondent C.K. Dorji, who escaped unhurt.

In Darjeeling town, the office of the assistant engineer of the PWD [Public Works Division] was set on fire. However, there has been some improvement in Darjeeling town itself. According to the district magistrate all shops in the town were open. He said state government offices and banks in Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong also remained open. The authorities claimed that attendance in all state government offices in Kurseong was normal. Railway, post and telegraph offices and other offices started functioning from today. Road and train services between

Siliguri and Darjeeling and Siliguri and Kalimpong however did not operate.

End of Strike Announced

BK281255 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] The 13-day bandh [strike] in the Darjeeling hill areas called by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] is being withdrawn from 0600 tomorrow morning. This was announced by the GNLF president, Mr Subash Ghisingh, in Darjeeling today following a meeting with the prominent members of the GNLF including its frontal organizations.

In a press release issued in Darjeeling, Mr Ghisingh said the decision to withdraw the bandh has been taken following discussions with the central leaders in New Delhi recently. A 42-member GNLF delegation will meet the central leaders, including the prime minister, next month.

2 Killed, 4 Injured in Gujarat Police Firing

BK271328 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] In Gujarat, two persons were killed and four others injured in police firing in Wadi area in Baroda this morning. Police said they had to resort to firing as a crowd indulged in stonethrowing and arson. The situation is now reported to be under control.

'Indefinite Curfew' Imposed

BK290308 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] In Baroda, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in the city police station area from midnight following some violent incidents. According to the police, there were two incidents of stabbing. In the Wadi police station area also, indefinite curfew has been imposed from last night. Earlier, only an 11-hour night curfew was imposed in the area.

The situation in the curfew-bound area is reported to be under control. There has been no untoward incident after midnight last night.

Laos' Phomvihan Makes Stopover; Meets Natwar Singh

BK271250 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] The prime minister of Laos, Mr K. Phomvihan, made a brief stopover in New Delhi today before proceeding to Moscow. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh, received him. During their hour-long meeting at the airport they discussed the situation in Indochina with special reference to Kampuchea.

Daily on Satellite Observation To Mark PRC Border

BK281139 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
20 Jun 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Map the Border"]

[Text] The External Affairs Minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari's visit to Beijing on his way back from Pyongyang earlier this week was curious. He was fully aware that the Chinese Foreign Minister would not be there at that time. Did he think that it would serve his purpose if he could hold an exchange of views with the acting Prime Minister or the Vice-Foreign Minister, as he, indeed, did instead of his opposite number? If the idea was to open a dialogue at a political level after the latest seven rounds of futile talks at the level of Foreign Ministry officials, Mr Tiwari should have planned to meet the Chinese Foreign Minister himself. What was the urgency of a "stop-over" visit? If, in view of some tension of the north-eastern border, he was seeking an exchange of assurances that both sides would shun force and seek only a solution through negotiations, a personal visit, surely, was not essential. This could have been done through diplomatic channels. His decision to pay a hasty visit to the Chinese capital was questionable as it was liable to give wrong signals.

It now seems that the two Foreign Ministers will meet before the end of this year. A serious attempt to resolve the border tangle through mutual understanding would, of course, be welcome. The question is whether sufficient spadework will have been done by then to make such talks worthwhile. All that the foreign ministry officials of both sides have done so far has been to repeat claims and counter-claims about the historic alignment of the border. Any serious bid to look for common ground ought to begin with an agreement on the precise demarcation of the highest watershed in the north-east. Observation by satellites has advanced so much that a precise location of such a line should not present much of a problem. It would be best if India and China could undertake this work jointly. In the event of Chinese reluctance to join in, however, India should undertake the work on its own and present the results of such observation at the negotiating table. Tension has erupted from time to time along the border in the north-east more because of genuine misunderstandings about the line of actual control than a desire to enforce the basic border claims unilaterally. At least this irritant should be removed with the help of satellite observation. Its removal will help create the sort of climate in which the two sides can explore the mutual adjustments that a solution of the main problem will require.

IRNA Reports 'Fath-7' Operations in North

LD290827 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi Kurdish fighters launched a joint operation in northern Iran [as received] code-named "Fath-7" Sunday. Heavy blows were inflicted on enemy troops in the operations.

'Victorous Operations' Noted

LD290901 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0819 GMT 19 Jun 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to a report from the "Fath-7" operational region, in the course of last night's [as heard] victorous operations the Islamic forces in the Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, (Jinaqchian), (Kani Bankah), and (Sarab Salman) region launched an assault against the Ba'thist enemy forces and dealt them crushing blows.

According to the same report, our forces entered the town of Sayyid Sadiq and destroyed security organizations, telecommunications, customs buildings, a number of military bases,and the town's garrison. A number of tanks, APC's, military vehicles, ammunition depots, and other weaponry in the garrison were set ablaze.

400 Iraqi Soldiers Killed

LD290910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0824 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to a report from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, in the overwhelming attack by the victorous forces of Islam on the (Sarab Salman Agha) region, 400 enemy soldiers stationed there were killed and several vehicles and pieces of engineering equipment used to demolish Kurdish villages inside Iraq were set on fire. Twelve Ba'thist agents who intended to destroy the village of (?Zekon) near the city of (?Zowr) in Iraq were killed.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Political Sermon 26 Jun

LD262344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1230 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Friday prayers political sermon delivered by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 26 June — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Next week we have the anniversary of the martyrdom of the 7th Tir [28 June 1981], who were martyred when the office of the Islamic Republic Party was blown up; I will speak on this. The most important issue during these days is the war and matters relating to the Persian Gulf and the evil incitements of world arrogance. We think our dear nation should be aware of these issues so that we will not be caught by surprise. I will speak at length about this.

The martyrs of the 7th Tir are among those martyrs whose memories we must always keep alive in the revolution. Some people may think that as we have so many martyrs -- those martyred in the war, those martyred in the revolution -- why is it always necessary to praise a limited number of persons. Of course, I also accept this and I do not want to claim that the status of our other martyrs, especially our unknown martyrs, is less before God or anywhere else than that of the martyrs of the 7th Tir, or that of the martyrs of the Prime Minister Office [reference to Prime Minister Rajavi and others who were killed in the explosion at the prime minister's office], or even that of the martyrs of the Mehrab [the Altar, i.e. martyred Shi'ite imams]. Rather, we might say that their status is higher because the war martyrs chose martyrdom. It is the difference between a situation in which, for instance, I may be sitting at my place of work and something may happen and I may be killed — an enemy may come and kill me; I may be shot en route somewhere; I may be occupied in doing some good work, doing good, but I still may be killed — and a situation I chose from the start, in which I come out of my house, say goodbye, leave my wife and children, father and brother, my studies and work, and go to the battlefront, a battlefront for which one prepares oneself for martyrdom. Most certainly the status of these martyrs — these same Basijis, combatants, Armed Forces troops, and other people who go to the fronts and become martyrs and who choose this path — is very high before God. [passage omitted]

However, there are some events in the course of people's lives that should be kept alive for the whole system and for the war and for those martyrs who chose to go and become martyrs and who are so beloved by the Almighty. Included among these events is this same episode of the martyrs of the 7th Tir.

You know this was a calculated event. At a time when leftist and rightist currents, arrogance and reaction, became despondent about the outcome of the disturbances in the early days of the revolution and saw that the Islamic system had become stabilized on the fundamental principles of Islam, that the Islamic constitution had been adopted, that the Islamic Consultative Assembly had been created, that the Islamic government had taken shape, that the revolutionary institutions were making efforts in those areas in which there were shortcomings — they filled the vacuums and all the ranks in the country were drawn to Islam — and that all the plots and propaganda had been defeated, then the enemy planned to destroy the system from the inside through the resources and influences they had within the system. You know that this event happened after they started the war. However, the war did not turn out in the warmonger's favor. Then our offensive against the Iraqis began.

This was after the time when, in the Majlis, the Liberals [referring to Bani-Sadr, Bazargan, and their supporters] in spite of their mischief, realized they were a weak minority and they could do nothing. It was after the time when the leader of the Liberals was dismissed from the presidency and from his post as deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The movement they started on the 30th Khordad [20 June large-scale demonstration by the Mojahedin and others in Tehran] in order to create havoc in Tehran was also defeated. There was nothing left for them to do from the outside. As a result they planned to blow up the system all at once. They schemed; they chose the right place; they calculated that the Majlis, the government, the judiciary, and the Islamic Republic Party — which, in those days, formulated the country's policies — they calculated that if they were to be removed from the scene, then nothing else would remain; there would be chaos. In that session of the party, if Almighty God had not assisted and some coincidences had not occured, the enemies might have achieved their aim.

Of course, it might have happened that they overthrew, for instance, the Majlis or the government, and dismissed the judiciary. Of course, the people and the imam [Khomeyni] would not have allowed them to succeed, but they might have achieved their first goal which was to discredit all the organs. About half of the deputies were present; a majority of the ministers were there; a majority of the judiciary and the Supreme Judiciary Council and a majority of the leaders of the Islamic Republic Party were also present. They wanted to totally annihilate this gathering; that was their plan. But by God's grace and His wish the Majlis did not lose its majority and in the first session, some of our friends who were forced to go to hospital after the incident came in on their beds, like angels in white robes, to the Majlis — a scene I will never forget! No one expected that day that we would be able to declare the Majlis session to be a formal one. When I rang the bell to open the session and when this sound reached the hearts and ears of people....Afterward, many people came to say they had not in their entire lives heard such a heart-warming and sweet sound as that bell declaring the inauguration of the Majlis. They thought that the Majlis had lost its official status, but with the coming of two or three injured persons our Majlis was formally opened. [passage omitted]

In those days there was no question of party or no party. As you know, we all were in the party [the Islamic Republic Party] and served it. The imam and Grand Ayatollah Montazeri approved it and donated money in order to help divert the enemies' attention to the party. However, later on this might have ended in differences and (?in individuals) leading the party to a point where there was no need of its continued existence, but we must preserve the value it held in the past.

Regarding our most important issue — the war — I will attempt to explain the situation to our nation. As we advance in the war and the signs of victory of the Islamic Republic and Islam shine more clearly, and as the proof of weakness and defeat of the rule by the infidel 'Aflaqite Ba'th of Iraq become more pronounced, the nature of the war, the factors causing the flames of war to rise, and the real causes of the war are being revealed. All those things covered so far are now becoming apparent. [passage omitted]

Many wonder how it could be that a 13 or 14 million strong country dared enter into war with a country of 40 or 50 million people. The fact is that it was not Saddam but the Ba'th Party of Iraq that moves and speaks like a puppet. The real perpetrators of the war try to cover their faces, as they did in the first few days when they saw that Iraq would neither topple nor destroy Iran, to [words indistinct] and told Iraq the same. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, if we had won the war last year, it would have been considered a victory only over Iraq — a country of 50 million people over one of 13 or 14 million. But if we win this year, everyone will see it as a victory against the United States. [chants] [passage omitted]

Mr Reagan [shouts from the crowd] and America are like a wounded wolf today. One cannot expect a wounded wolf to behave rationally; it will attack anything. They make all sorts of threats without following through on them. Even if they could, they would resort to anything. [sentence as heard] They have been disgraced. They mischievously tried to ruin the reputation of our revolution, but they themselves were disgraced and all their principles were trampled on. Their European allies began to doubt their honesty. They were telling them not to sell these people weapons. Subsequently, it wasdiscovered that they were doing it themselves. Of course, it was nothing; but even the two or three items that it was giving were [words indistinct]. They told them not to pay ransom to hostage-takers; it was discovered that they were paying it themselves. They told the Arabs: We support you, and so they were. But then it was discovered that they were secretly making overtures to the Islamic Republic. The Arabs were then frightened. [passage omitted]

If America makes threats about the Persian Gulf, it can do nothing. What can it do here? What kind of stupid statement is this -- even the White House secretary does not believe it: We are going to fly the U.S. flag on 11 Kuwaiti ships for the sake of the security of the Persian Gulf? Are there only 11 ships in the Persian Gulf? If the Islamic Republic were to retaliate, would there only be 11 ships there? Has the Islamic Republic shown any signs so far of caring whether a ship flies the U.S. flag or not? The Soviets, who are more [words indistinct] than you, and who are our neighbors — you saw that happened. What kind of plans are these? Our nation should be aware that this might happen, no matter how silly it may sound.

However, a wounded wolf, because of all this fuss about its integrity and all this publicity and all this pressure from the reactionary (?elements), may attempt mistaken solutions. We should prepare ourselves in the event this happens. [slogans, chants] Any wise person, when faced with a wild and dangerous bull, should take care and prepare himself. A bull that has horns has no brains. We must protect ourselves in this situation.

Our nation is definitely victorious in the Persian Gulf. The Persian Gulf is not a place where we could fight a lot, and we do not want to fight, we do not want a war there. Those who consider the Persian Gulf a the vital artery of the Western industrial world and want to maintain security there cannot tolerate a lengthy war in the Persian Gulf. If a war were to continue there for 3 or 4 months, the price of oil in the world would rise to $50-60 per barrel and the countries of the southern regions of the Persian Gulf -- the servants of the Western industrial powers who are dependent on their ports, water purifiers, oil resources, imports ports....[Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] They are dependent on these things; they are not like Iran. Here we live in a sea of abundance where, were they toclose off one corner of it, we could still live satisfactorily in another corner. The countries of the southern parts of the Persian Gulf are not so well placed. If their water purifiers alone were to be put out of action, their people would die of thirst. If their oil-loading jetties were to be destroyed, ships could not dock there. These are only a short distance from us.

In the arena of war, oil jetties, oil wells, and oil pipes cannot be preserved, even if the party concerned is not involved. However, the arena of war is not that of oil matters. Therefore, if there is to be a war in the Persian Gulf, it will be a long one because on one side of it there is Iran. Iran has proved it will not run away from the arena and it can fight for what it believes for years. We are not fighting only for ourselves; we are not fighting merely for Iran; we are not fighting to rule. We are fighting for Islam and our calculations are not based solely on victory. Let our enemies who may not know this by now take note: Victory, as explained and articulated in the Islamic Republic by the leader of the revolution, by our combatants, lies in performing one's duties. If I succeed in performing the duties of Jihad in the path of God, then I am victorious, whether I am killed or whether I drive the enemy from the scene of the battle. If people are in the arena, they are victorious. [passage omitted]

Forces on 'Full Alert'

LD261725 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 26 Jun 87

["Iran Will Win a U.S.-Initiated War — Rafsanjani" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — Majlis Speaker and substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared here today that the U.S. can start a war (with Iran) at the Persian Gulf, but that it cannot finish it. He said even after the Americans should choose to take to their heels as a result of their engagement with Iran, the Iranians and their allies would hunt them down and deal them fresh blows wherever they may be.

The hojjat ol-eslam who was sermonizing to tens of thousands of worshippers at Tehran University and at a weekly ceremony carried live on the local radio said the Iranians would not welcome such a development at the Persian Gulf, but threatened that any time the Americans 'should shed anybody's blood at the Persian Gulf we will stand against them.'

He said there are more than sufficient indications that the Americans are busy intriguing against Iran at the Persian Gulf, but reminded that the Islamic Republic is on full alert to cope with and neutralize U.S. schemeswhen warranted.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the developments this month in Al-Shariqah, a Persian Gulf shaykhdom is just one example of Washington's scheme for bringing to power in that shaykhdom a ruler obedient to the dictates from Washington. He said whatever the future conspiracies, the military maneuvers by the Iranians now in progress at the Persian Gulf is proof of Iran's being already in full array to fight it out with whoever it may be at the Persian Gulf.

Addressing himself to the United States and the Persian Gulf states without referring to them in name, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that those who pretend to need a peaceful Persian Gulf would do wise to bear in mind that they will not be able to engage themselves in any protracted war at the Persian Gulf. He said the Islamic Republic is blessed with many resources which make her unique in the community of the Persian Gulf states, since they heavily rely on the Persians for their livelihood and even 'for their drinking water.'

He said the Iranians are not fighting for political supremacy nor will they be tempted to do so in the future, but that their principal concern is to fulfill that which is their religious duty. The course Iran's Muslim combatants are treading is one of a holy struggle with its divinely promised recompense whether in this traverse the fighter should kill his foe or be killed himself. 'Therefore', he said, 'Our enemies should better find out about the people whom they want to challenge.'

The substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers said until a year ago the U.S. Government openly claimed to be neutral in the Iraq-Iran war, but that more recently it made an about-face in its assertions, admitting its siding with Iraq in the conflict.

Rafsanjani said Washington's plots rather than disrepute Iran, has badly disreputed itself among its own allies at the Persian Gulf. He said the uninvited visit to Tehran by McFarlane and the arms sales scandal at a time Washington claimed to support arms embargo to Iran has only raised doubts among U.S. allies at the Persian Gulf on whether Washington is really above-board in its dealings and dependable as an ally.

Elsewhere in his sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani paid tribute to a group of 72 public officials among them 27 Majlis (parliament) deputies and former Chief Justice Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti who were martyred at a bomb blast at the headquarters of the (now defunct) Islamic Republic Party on 28th, June, 1981 and who will be remembered on the seventh anniversary of their martyrdom throughout Iran this Sunday. He said the blasting of the headquarters of the party was a plot designed and engineered by the enemies of the Islamic Republic and a group of non-revolutonary 'liberals whose leader (Abolhassan Bani Sadr) had been ousted from presidency'.

He said the assembly of the party's members as a united whole with identical outlooks at that time was highly significant for the revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani reminded that the million-strong mourners at the funeral of the group of 72 people in Tehran and demonstrations in Tehran and elsewhere in the country in condemnation of the dastardly act of the revolution's enemies was a demonstration of the people's support for the revolution and for the people martyred at the bomb blast.

The hojjat ol-eslam also lauded Iran's Muslim combatants for the latest series of operations at the battlefronts and especially in "Fath-6" and "Nasr" operations as evoking the memory of the earlier "Val-Fajr-8" operations. He said as a result of the recent operations Iraq lost at least as much as one hundred kilometers of land to Iran, that one town and 20 villages of Iraq had been liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants and that 700 Iraqi soldiers had been taken captive.

Majlis Speaker Notes 'Economic Pressure'

LD261830 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday that the heavy investments of the enemies of the Islamic Republic in the Persian Gulf aim at putting economic pressure on Iran. The Majlis speaker made the remark in a speech to the participants in a seminar of the Armed Forces intelligence officials here where he also lauded the visitors for their key role in the country's security. Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi was also present at the meeting which took place on the last day of the three-day seminar.

Khomeyni Addresses Judiciary Officials 29 Jun

LD291140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Speech by Imam Khomeyni to members of the judiciary in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran on 29 June — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I always pray for the various strata of the nation, especially those who serve and who are engaged in serving others. Indeed, the president of the Supreme Court resorted to exaggeration [reference to remarks by Musavi-Ardebili who likened Khomeyni to the Prophet]. Whatever exists must be attributed to Islam and to the blessed 12th imam. We all are nothing. I hope to God for your success. The issue of the judiciary is a highly important problem, as you know. Despite this, it is not insoluble. God willing, through the efforts of you gentlemen, we hope to see a solution to this problem. However, failure to solve this problem, failure to accomplish certain tasks does not mean we should abandon trying. After all, God Almighty does not expect us to do more than we are capable of doing. God willing, we, you gentlemen, will do everything we can. Considering that the judiciary is a highly complex and important issue, we must show patience and put up with difficulties. You must beseech God Almighty to give you strength to solve these problems.

I wish to express my gratitude to all of you and to the Supreme Judicial Council. I hope that God Almighty may bless you all. Under the existing circumstances, when we are embroiled in so many calamities, we must all stand together. The whole nation must remain united so that our problems can be solved. May God give you success, give our nation success so that all may serve Islam. May God protect Islam and deal with the enemies of the Islamic Republic. God bless you all.

Musavi Observes Final Stages of Maneuvers

LD281212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Our correspondent aboard the missile-launcher and destroyer *Alborz* in the Persian Gulf waters has filed this report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, having arrived at the air-seaport of the First Base of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy in Bandar-e 'Abbas this morning, left aboard a helicopter for the logistics vessel *Fars*. Later, he left for the operational zone of the large-scale "Zolfaqar" exercises in the Oman Sea and Strait of Hormuz in order to inspect the combat-defensive operations of the fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy aboard the missile-launcher and destroyer *Alborz*.

He was accompanied by the chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces; the ministers of defense, roads and transport, culture and higher education, planning and budget, as well as the commanders of the Navy and the Ground Forces, a number of the prime ministerial deputies and advisers, and military commanders. During the inspection, Musavi observed the final stages of the large-scale exercises named "Zolfaqar" [the sword of the revered Imam 'Ali] by the Islamic Republic's Navy. Various naval units taking part in the exercises employed the most modern methods and tactics of combat and displayed their readiness and capability to confront misdeeds by the exploiting and aggressive powers and to protect the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman.

Tens of vessels belonging to the fleet of the Islamic Republic's Navy stretching out 18 km along their route passed in front of the prime minister aboard the missile-launcher *Alborz*. Moving on toward predetermined targets, the vessels showed the firepower of missiles and defensive systems to the attendants. It is noted that in the exercises, more than 20 heavy and light destroyers, missile-launching frigates and gunboats, logistics vessels and personnel carriers, as well as support vessels, airborne marine units, aircraft, and anti-surface as well as anti-submarine helicopters, a marine and commando brigade, Navy frogmen, and fighter-bombers of the Islamic Republic's Air Force took part. The "Zolfaqar" exercises, which began last Tuesday and will continue for 8 days, is taking place inside the Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz, as well as the central section of the Persian Gulf with the purpose of eightening the combat readiness of the marine units of the Islamic Forces in confronting any potential threats. [end recording]

Guards Naval Commander on U.S. 'Declaration of War'

NC280528 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Our correspondent in Ahvaz has sent us a report on remarks by the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Navy on the Islamic Republic's capability and power to confront a possible U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf. We invite you to listen to this report.

[Begin recording] At a ceremony during which the IRGC Navy commander for the third area was introduced, the IRGC Navy commander stated: The Islamic Republic's naval capability in the Persian Gulf is greater than the superpowers think. We have organized facilities in this region and have resources and weapons with which we can teach America a bitter and unforgettable lesson if it intervenes.

He also referred to the objectives behind Iraq's attacks on commercial vessels and oil tankers and the use of the two superpowers' flags by reactionary governments that are the Iraqi regime's mentors. He said: After a Soviet ship collided with floating mines in the Persian Gulf, the plan to support ships heading for countries that help Iraq failed, and the two superpowers' flags proved ineffective. They realized that a flag cannot supply credibility.

The IRGC Navy commander then discussed Saddam's warmongering attitude in the Persian Gulf and the attacks on 300 ships and tankers, and stated: The escorting of 11 ships by the big powers is a pretext to enter the Persian Gulf. Regional security cannot be ensured by escorting ships. He also asserted: The statement that the AWACS planes deployed in Saudi Arabia will intensify their information-collecting activities and patrols in the Persian Gulf, the statement on the renting of a hospital in Saudi Arabia by the United States, as well as putting bases in other parts of the region at their disposal, are declarations of U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf and a declaration of war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Otherwise, why would the United States rent a hospital in Saudi Arabia under present circumstances?

According to this report, the IRGC Navy commander said that the IRGC Navy had formed the third area in order to further organize in order to confront and inflict blows on U.S. ships seeking to approach the northern part of the Persian Gulf. [end recording]

Khamene'i Warns Ships Regardless of Flagging

LD281914 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — The superpowers will certainly suffer heavy blows if they conspire to launch an aggression in the Persian Gulf or back Iran into a corner for making it back down its legitimate demands, warned President 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday. The president reiterated that Iran would never initiate any act for creating tension in the region.

Khamene'i who was addressing thousands of young but especially trained combatants for maritime warfare at the Persian Gulf said the Islamic Republic does not fear the presence of any foreign power at the Persian Gulf, but that rather it is the United States which stand in awe of Iran's Muslim combatants.

The president said Mr Reagan is now finding himself at an impasse. On the one hand he has found it impossible to materialize his earlier threats with respect to Iran and the Persian Gulf, and on the other he finds it embarrassing to leave his allies unprotected.

Khamene'i said repeated earlier official statements in connection with the Persian Gulf saying security at the Persian Gulf is not something which can be given some states and denied others. He said the Persian Gulf can be safe for all or unsafe for all, rather than safe for some and unsafe for others.

The Iranian president warned that if the Iraqi Government should venture to engage in adventuresome acts relying on U.S. frigates at the Persian Gulf, Iran would hit back 'no matter what flag is our target (ship) flying.'

Chief Justice on 'Decisive Response' to U.S. Moves

LD262035 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 26 Jun 87

["Iran Ready To Give Decisive Responce to U.S. in P.G." — IRNA headline]

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., June 26, IRNA — Although Iran was once an island of stability for the Americans, the situation here has changed so greatly that Reagan, in order to make good on his past defeats at the hands of Iran, has been forced to send American fleets to the Persian Gulf in a show of power, said the chief justice on Thursday.

Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili made the remark in a speech to a visiting group of Pakistani ulema, lawyers and university professors here where he warned "the powerful Islamic State of Iran is ready to give a decisive response to any military movement of this criminal superpower."

On the Iraqi-imposed war Ayatollah Ardabili said that it is obvious that Saddam (Husayn) is unable to fight Iran for even 24 hours without foreign help. However, the ayatollah said, despite all assistance of foreign powers to the Baghdad government, Iranian forces are holding the upper hand throughout the fronts and all Iraqi inhuman actions such as its use of chemical weapons and bombing of Iranian cities have proved to be of no use to the Baghdad regime.

The chief justice also called on the visitors to raise the consciousness of their people in order to thwart plots hatched by the enemies to prevent Muslim people's development and spiritual growth.

Council of Experts Meets, Elects Presidium

LD291256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the first session of the fith annual meeting of the Council of Experts convened this morning chaired by Ayatollah Meshkini.

At the session the members of the Presidium and members of the Commission of the Constitutional Article 107 and Article 109, as well as members of the Commission for Internal Procedural Codes and Elections of the Council of Experts, and members from the Budget and Financial Affairs Commission, as well as the study group were elected.

According to the same report, the elected Presidium of the Council of Experts are as follows:

1. Ayatollah Meshkini, chairman of the Council of Experts.

2. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, first deputy chairman.

3. Ayatollah Ebrahim Amin, second deputy chairman.

4. Mr Taheri, Mr Khorramabadi, and Mr Mohammad Mo'em, secretaries.

According to the same report, the Council of Experts will convene at 1600 hours tomorrow.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

6 'Enemy' Aircraft Shot Down

LD261700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, six aircraft of the Zionist enemy forces were targeted by intense antiaircraft fire by the Islamic forces in the operational region north of Panjwin at 1448, 1454, 1501, 1506, 1541, and 1705 today. They were all downed.

According to the same report, the pilot of one of the aircraft has been captured by the Islamic forces, while the body of another pilot has been found. Efforts to locate remains of the other aircraft or their pilots are continuing.

Communique No 2,879

LD261728 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected two cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but found no Iraq-bound goods aboard them. They also checked movements of Iraqi vessels around Al-'Amyah and Al-Bakr oil platforms in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf.

Announcing the above here Friday, the 2879th Joint Staff communique said that at least five Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces yesterday.

Elsewhere throughout the fronts Thursday, Muslim forces of Iran opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements of theirs. An Iranian patrol convoy clashed with an Iraqi patrol unit in a northwestern fronts yesterday, inflicting several casualties on enemy patrols and seizing some military equipment of theirs. The armoured units of Iranian Muslim combatants suppressed movements of Iraqi tanks in Sumar, western fronts, yesterday. Movement of enemy vehicle columns was also checked in Zobeydah, southern fronts over the same period, the communique concluded.

'Specialized Combat Maneuver'

LD262005 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] We draw your attention to a report by our colleague in Arak on the specialized combat maneuver of the Defenders of the Persian Gulf:

[Unidentified correspondent] Simultaneously with the victories of the combatants of Islam in the Sardasht operational sectors and in order to confront the plots and mischief of world arrogance in the Persian Gulf, the combat-defense maneuver of the Defenders of the Persian Gulf was staged in Arak this morning with the presence of 12 model battalions of Basij forces and forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of the central district, comprising part of the 1st Sar-Allah Corps.

According to the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Arak, in this maneuver the forces and ranks of the Basij, bases, columns, and urban and rural resistance centers of the cities of Arak, Khomeyni, Mahallat, Delijan, and (Sarakan) conducted an armed, orderly, and glorious march through the streets of the city of Arak. Chanting the slogans "Death to America," "The Persian Gulf of Iran — the burial place of Reagan," and "War, war until victory," they declared their combat readiness and military capability to crush the aggressor anywhere in the Persian Gulf. Shouting "We will trample America under foot," they displayed once again the strength of the monotheist corps in foiling the aggression of world arrogance.

This report states that at the end of their march the participants in the maneuver of the Defenders of the Persian Gulf participated in the Friday prayers. They prepared a scroll on which they declared their full preparedness to be present in the Persian Gulf to eliminate the wicked deeds of arrogance led by the criminal United States.

[Signed] Central News Unit, Arak

Iraqi Counterattack 'Foiled'

NC270525 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] A heavy counterattack by the Zionist enemy in the "Nasr-4" operational theater has been foiled. Reports indicate that the Zionist enemy, employing the 67th, 68th and 69th Brigades of its special force and its Presidential Guard Army, attempted a counterattack in the "Nasr-4" theater. The aggressive enemy suffered heavy losses in this thwarted counterattack, in which human waves and armored units were used, because the assaulting forces lacked coordination and because the operational theater could not hold so many combatants.

Despite employing tank and APC battalions, the Zionist enemy suffered thousands of deaths andwounded and was ultimately forced to retreat. A large number of the Zionist enemy's tanks and APC's were destroyed when the counterattack was foiled, and at least two of the Saddamists' tank battalions were destroyed. In addition, a number of Saddamists were captured by the fighters of Islam during these clashes and were transferred behind the fronts.

More on Counterattack

LD271103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the three services of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has issued a communique as follows: Following the victories of the infidel-fighting combatants of Islam in the "Nasr-4" operational zone, the Zionist Iraqi army yesterday gathered five brigades of the special republican forces in the 'Nasr-4" operational sector and launched a counteroffensive with a view to regaining the lost territory. However, thanks to the valor and steadfastness of the warriors of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, this last-ditch effort was repulsed. The enemy was forced to retreat with the loss of more than 5,600 killed or wounded, dozens of troops captured, and the destruction of large quantities of arms and equipment, including several tanks and personnel carriers.

During these operations, the 65th Brigade of the special forces was 100 percent destroyed, the 68th and 66th Brigades of the 99th Special Mechanized Forces, as well as the 3d Brigade of the Republican Guard were more than 50 percent destroyed.

Iraq Drops Chemical Bombs

LD271014 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 27, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes redeployed chemical bombs in one of western operational regions Friday following their repeated defeats in this operational theater. Iraqi chemicel bombardment took place at 08:20 hours (04:50 GMT) Friday in the "Nasr-4" operational region and inflicted the possible minimum extent of damage due to the alertness of Muslim combatants.

Following the Iraqi deployment of chemical bombs, anti-toxic units rushed to clean the area and the few who were injured and poisoned were immediately transferred behind the fronts.

Communique No 2,880

LD271526 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected four cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying goods for Iraq.

Announcing the above here Saturday, the 2880th Joint Staff communique said the Iranian gunboats also checked movement of Iraqi vessels around Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf.

Muslim forces of Iran opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions throughout the fronts especially southern fronts yesterday, killing several enemy soldiers and destroying parts of enemy fortifications, some tanks and armoured personnel carriers. Several enemy munitions dumps were also set ablaze.

Iranian patrol convoys successfully gathered intelligence on key Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Friday, dealing effective blows on the enemy troops. An Iraqi patrol unit trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in areas overlooking Sumar was forced to flee sustaining several casualties under heavy Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqi engineering units in Hoseyniyeh, southern fronts, suffered casualties and some of their engineering machinery were destroyed by artillery fire of Iranian combatants yesterday. Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Sardasht theater Friday.

Iraqi Attack on Kurds Repelled

LD271852 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 27, IRNA — Kurdish Peshmergas repelled an Iraqi attack on the Politburo headquarters of Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan (PUK) Friday. Announcing this, the PUK spokesman said that two brigades and four battalions of Iraqi forces were forced to withdraw, sustaining casualties and damage in the six-hour clash. The Iraqi forces were backed by armoured and artillery units, he added.

Communique No 2,881

LD281516 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — At least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements destroyed in parts of the western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces on Saturday, said a military communique here today.

The 2881st Joint Staff communique said that Iranian artillery fire killed or wounded eight Iraqi soldiers and set ablaze one enemy munitions dump in a southern front yesterday.

Iranian infantry, armoured and mechanized units continued their battle with Iraqi troops in a northwestern front Saturday, destroying several enemy gun emplacements, one munitions dump and three vehicles.

Muslim forces of Iran opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions throughout the fronts especially Talayeh and Kushk where the enemy troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment.

An Iraqi soldier from Brigade 425 surrendered to Iranian Muslim combatants to seek asylum in Sumar, western fronts, yesterday.

Iranian patrol convoys ambushed Iraqi troops throughout the fronts yesterday dealing effective blows on them. An Iraqi patrol unit trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in Helaleh, western fronts, Saturday was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched a cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed it to continue voyage after being satisfied that there was no Iraq-destined cargo aboard it, the communique concluded.

Basij, IRGC Hold Rally

LD281524 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., June 28, IRNA — Seventy-two combat battalions of Basij and Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps

(IRGC) staged the largest ever rally here today declaring their readiness to challenge aggressors at the Persian Gulf.

At the end of the rally five specially trained marine combat battalions of Basij and IRGC troops better known as 'Defenders of the Persian Gulf' started for their missions.

Meanwhile a convoy of supplies for the mainenance of the Persian Gulf defenders, entirely contributed by private citizens in Sanandaj, Kurdestan Province ranging from Land Cruiser Toyotas and tractors, and large water tanks to grocery items, headed for the Persian Gulf aboard 100 trailer trucks today.

660 Casualties in Gas Bombing

LD281714 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — Ten civilians were martyred and 650 others wounded in the Iraqi chemical bombings of residential areas of the northwestern Iranian border town of Sardasht, West Azarbayjan Province, today. Most of the martyred and wounded people are children and old women and men, who had been unable to protect themselves against such toxic gases as mustard gas used by Iraqi warplanes.

The number of the wounded people is so large that there could not be found enough rooms in the town's hospitals for all of them and the others were transferred to hospitals in nearby cities.

2 Iraqi Planes Downed

LD281627 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes, attempting to violate the airspace of the northwestern Iranian city of Sardasht, West Azarbayjan Province, were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 13:58 and 14:06 GMT Sunday.

Meanwhile, Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions in the "Nasr-4" operational theater four times today, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which took place at 04:30, 06:50, 11:05 and 14:50 GMT.

'Defenders of Gulf' Depart

NC290505 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Combat forces from Hamadan attached to "The Defenders of the Persian Gulf" were seen off during a ceremony and left for the battlefields to answer the mischiefs committed in the Persian Gulf by the world-devouring America.

Simultaneous with the departure of the convoy of "The Defenders of the Persian Gulf" to the fronts, an independent battalion of martyrs consisting of combat-specialized forces from Shadegan in the form of "The Defenders of the Persian Gulf" was warmly and zealously seen off during a ceremony by various strata of people and the brave tribes of the region. The battalion left for the battlefields of the war of good against evil to answer threats by criminal America and to confront the great Satan.

President on 'Successful' Foreign Policy

BK281550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan will stick to its present foreign policy which is very successful and that Pakistan continues to be an island of peace and stability in this troubled region. He was addressing a news conference in Quetta this evening at the end of his 3-day visit there.

The president said Pakistan desires non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and wants this area to be a nuclear-free zone. Pakistan does not want to compete with India in producing nuclear weapons; it is opposed to the presence of nuclear weapons in this region.

Answering a question, the president said we are fully aware of our needs with regard to meeting our security requirements.

About the present democratic system in the country, he said it is working satisfactorily. He added that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's 5-point socioeconomic development program has accelerated the pace of development activities throughout the country.

About the Shari'ah [legal and moral code based on the Koran and traditions of the Prophet] Bill, the president said there is a great different between the Shari'ah Bill and the enforcement of Shari'ah. A parliamentary democratic system exists in Pakistan and this private bill has to pass through various phases of this system as well. The present elected government also emphasizes the speedy enforcement of Islamic rule. The president expressed the hope that a consensus will be reached on the Shari'ah Bill.

Referring to the law and order situation in Baluchistan, the president described it as an exemplary. He said he has witnessed noteworthy progress in various fields in the province where many educational institutions, hospitals, and welfare centers are being built and tube wells for irrigation are being installed.

Spokesman Discusses Afghanistan, Zhao Visit

BK251700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Text] The PRC-assisted heavy electrical complex is in its final stage of construction. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that negotiations between the two countries have already been concluded. The spokesman said that China will also assist in modernizing the Taxila heavy machinery complex and heavy machine foundry.

Replying to a question, the spokesman made it clear that Pakistan has acquired some tanks, aircraft, and other equipment through a modest defense cooperation program with China. Although this program may be continued, no special defense agreement was made during Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit.

On the Afghanistan issue, the spokesman said that Pakistan is ready to resume dialogue with the Soviet Union and the indirect Geneva talks to seek a political settlement. The spokesman said that there had been useful exchanges of views with the Soviet Union in the past on the Afghan issue and that it showed interest in an early political solution. Further talks in this regard may prove fruitful, he added. The Soviet foreign minister and the first deputy foreign minister have been invited to visit Pakistan.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that no date has been set for the next round of Geneva talks. The spokesman said the main question at the Geneva talks is the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Various other issues, such as the establishment of a national reconciliation government in Afghanistan and the views of different Afghan groups in and outside that country, are internal Afghan affairs.

Asked whether the Afghanistan issue was discussed during PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang's recent visit to Pakistan, the spokesman said that we have very close contact with China on this issue and views were exchanged with Zhao Ziyang on all aspects of the problem.

When the spokesman was asked to comment on the report that maps have shown the Wakhan area as being part of the Soviet Union, he said that both the Soviet Union and the Kabul administration have refuted this in the past.

The spokesman said that unanimity has been achieved at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] ministerial meeting in New Delhi this month to (?contain) the crime of terrorism. Action on an individual, bilateral, and regional basis will be possible in this regard. The spokesman said all SAARC countries have been asked to prepare a draft convention for cooperation among members to control terrorism. Extradition of a person arrested for involvement in such crimes will constitute a part of this convention. The spokesman said that the report on the draft convention will be presented at the SAARC summit which is expected to be held in Kathmandu in November.

On the Gulf war, the spokesman said that Pakistan wants to see an end to the confrontation and an early and just solution of the political disputes between the warring countries.

He said that the Supreme Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization [consisting of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey] in its recent Tehran meeting agreed to introduce a preferential tariff system to promote trade among the regional countries. The program will be implemented on a trial basis by the end of this year. The spokesman said the proposed agreement will be finalized at the commerce ministers' meeting of the three countries next month.

On the recent visit of General Crist of the United States, the spokesman said that such visits are frequent between Pakistan and the United States. General Crist was on a tour of the region and he visited Pakistan as well.

Former Indian Official Secretly Meets Tamil Groups

BK281124 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] According to an AFP report from Madras, former Indian foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari, visited Madras secretly on Thursday [25 June] for talks with Tamil terrorists. Sources in Tamil Nadu said that Mr Bhandari returned to New Delhi on Friday after contacting leaders of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, EPRLF, the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, PLOTE, and the Tamil Eelam Revolutionary Organization, TELO. All three groups have been banned by rival LTTE from operating in northern Sri Lanka.

The sources said that the select committee members of the three Tamil groups were recently given 12 weeks of military training in the northern Indian Himalayan foothills. The sources added that the trained separatists are now camping on the Tanjavur coast in Madras, which is used by groups to launch expedition into Sri Lanka.

New Delhi denies the accusation of training or arming the terrorists despite the fact that the Tamil separatists openly carry arms in Tamil Nadu. The news agency added that Mr Bhandari, who is a leading member of the ruling Congress-I Party, also met Sri Lanka's deputy high commissioner, Mr Jakoti.

President Rules Out General Elections Before 1989

BK261148 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] A new system of balloting under proportional representation will be introduced at the forthcoming local government elections. A new feature will be that the electorates will get an opportunity to choose their members from candidates. This was announced by President J. R. Jayewardene at a jana hamuwa [public rally] at (Piriyangalla) in the Colombo District yesterday.

He also ruled out general elections or presidential elections before 1989. The president told the gathering that the entire country is now preparing to participate in local government elections and by-elections for parliamentary constituencies. He added he was conducting these elections willingly, while certain sections are planning to boycott them.

The minister of agricultural development and research and food, Gamini Jayasuriya, explained the various benefits enjoyed by farmers under the present government and the facilities available to the agricultural sector.

Jayewardene States India 'Cannot Defeat' Country

BK271134 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] President J.R. Jaywardene has said that India or any other country cannot defeat us as long as we acted respecting the wishes of the people. The president recalled the sayings of Lord Buddha to the Lichavi [an ancient dynasty in India] royal household who were just rulers in this regard. He said that the Buddha always preached about the freedom of humanity. In a country where law and order and justice reigned supreme, society and other institutions continue to prosper.

Mr Jayewardene observed that various governments had come to power through universal suffrage. The president said that he assumed office through a mandate given by more than 50 percent of the people and not through the power of force or weapons and wished that the same situation will prevail in the future. Our Constitution has given the people a special power which is not found in India or in Britain. The main constitutional provisions cannot be changed without a referendum. These provisions related to the country's unitary status and integrity, the life of parliament and the term of office of president.

Mr Jayewardene pointed out that, therefore, the people are the administrators of this country and the executive power is vested in the president elected by the people under the new Constitution. The same system prevails in the United States. The president was speaking at the upasamprade [religious] ceremony of the Sri Lanka Ramanna Nikaya [Buddhist clergy] at Gampaha yesterday.

Premadasa Views Foreign Policy Formulation

BK261128 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency was passed in Parliament this evening. One hundred and seven voted for the motion and 11 against. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Communist Party, and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna MP's voted against the motion.

Winding up the debate, Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that Sri Lanka's foreign policy was formulated on the basis of the welfare of the people. The main objective was to act in accordance with the people's wishes. Mr Premadasa drew attention to the Matugama MP's statement in which he recalled that the government obtained foreign assistance for the insurrection in 1971. Mr Premadasa said the reason for this was that no foreign country had any connection with the conflict. But he maintained that there were threats to Sri Lanka's sovereignty and territorial integrity from various sources. Sri Lanka was not ready for war with another country. Mr Premadasa said that we do not have military strength but we have self-determination. Mr Premadasa recalled that when the United Kingdom showed a disinclination to grant independence to our country, the late D.S. Senanayake forged ahead through sheer determination.

Delhi Reports Distribution of Relief Aid in Jaffna

BK261710 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the relief supplies carried by the Indian cargo ship *Island Pride* are being taken to various cooperative society stores for distribution all over Jaffna Peninsula. The supplies being unloaded now at Kankesanturai port will be distributed free of cost through 400 retail outlets. Our Colombo correspondent Plabon Majumder reports that a warm welcome was accorded to the Indian official team yesterday on their arrival in Jaffna town.

Meanwhile, no violent incidents have been reported from Jaffna Peninsula since yesterday morning.

The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, is in New Delhi for consultations with the government. He is likely to apprise the external affairs minister and others about the island's ethnic problem and further supply of relief materials for the people of Jaffna.

Police Arrest 65 Members of Proscribed Party

BK270739 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0709 GMT 27 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 27 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Sri Lanka police made a further significant breakthrough in its crackdown on members of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) which has planned to over-throw the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka through violence and subversion, when it rounded up 65 more of its hard core members at Ganemulla, an agricultural area, about 12 miles from Colombo, a police spokesman told *Lanka Puwath* today. He said that last evening the Ganemulla police following a tipoff that five hardcore members of the JVP were attending a funeral of one of their members arrested them and took them into police custody. A few hours later, following their being interrogated, a squad of policemen led by the officer-in charge of the Ganemulla police station raided the homes of the suspects and were reported to have seized weapons which included locally made shotguns and subversive literature inciting people to violence in order to destabilise the law and order situation in the country and arrested a further 60 allegedly hardcore (?members).

Security Forces Destroy LTTE Base Camp in Muttur

BK280911 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0832 GMT 28 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 28 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Government troops today destroyed the main Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) base camp in Muttur, Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka, the Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*..

The Muttur LTTE leader Gajendran and at least six other terrorists were killed, many others wounded and a large haul of arms captured by troops.

This destruction of the base camp follows the destruction of the main LTTE landing point in Sudaikaeu, Muttur, about ten days ago by the security forces.

There were no casualties among the troops.